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Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: OIC Secretary General Denounces Dhahran Bombing

LD2606220196 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2035 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 26 Jun (SPA) — The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] has denounced the criminal explosion incident which took place last night in the town of Khubar, in the eastern region, expressing its total support for all measures adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to protect its security and stability.

OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid, said in a cable to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques:

"While we denounce this criminal act and all forms of violence and terrorism, we stress to you, the custodian of the two holy mosques, our total support for all the measures you adopt to punish those guilty hands which want to tamper with the security of the country and the people."

Dr Algabid added: "My trust is firm that the authorities of this country will, God willing, manage to arrest the culprits of this huge crime and apply God's punishments to them." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Government' Wins Vote of Confidence

JN2706113596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a session attended by President Yasir 'Arafat, the Legislative Council today passed a vote of confidence in the new government and its policy statement for the coming phase.

Council Speaker Ahmad Quray' said the vote of confidence was passed after securing the necessary majority.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Attends Legislative Council Session in Gaza

JN2606194696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Legislative Council met in an evening session, attended by President Yasir 'Arafat, at al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza. The session was adjourned at 2000 [1700 GMT]. The Legislative Council will resume its meetings tomorrow morning. The deputies continued their discussion of the policy statement, in preparation for a vote of confidence on it.

In his brief remarks, President 'Arafat said we are going through a building process, citing his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo today.

Deputy Dr. Yusuf Abu-Safiyah said that the most important factors for entrenching national unity in Palestinian society include creating equitable job opportunities based on qualifications and providing security and safety for all under the supremacy of the law.

Deputy Rawiyah al-Shawwa said that the ministers should be qualified for their positions, which entail serious duties.

The heads of the Legislative Council's committees and the council speaker are currently meeting with President 'Arafat at the presidential office in Gaza to discuss a number of issues and decisions that need to be implemented.

A German delegation attended part of the Legislative Council's morning session today. Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Quray' welcomed the delegation.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Tibi Denies Gold Met 'Secretly' With 'Abbas

TA2706085696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Arafat's adviser Ahmad al-Tibi has denied that 'Arafat's deputy, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], met secretly with Dr. Dore Gold, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser. Al-Tibi told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Abu-Mazin and Gold have not met but only spoken on the telephone several times. He asserted that the last telephone conversation between the two men, held two days ago, dealt with current affairs of mutual interest to the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Government of Israel.

In an interview published by the PA's official organ, Abu-Mazin stated that the new Israeli Government and the PA have been holding contacts, but these contacts are not negotiations as yet. He said Israel had informed the Palestinians that the new government must first get organized and only then will the Israeli side be able to participate in negotiations.

Abu-Mazin expects the format of contacts between the two sides to be determined next week and insisted that the official connection be with 'Arafat. Abu-Mazin added that Binyamin Netanyahu must honor the previous Israeli Government's commitments.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Tibi Urges Israel To Accept Land-for-Peace Formula

TA2606054196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For a Palestinian reaction to the Christopher visit, reporter Mark Weiss spoke with Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. He first asked him if he was disappointed that nothing concrete emerged from the talks yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tibi] The Arab world and the Palestinians especially are willing to hear obviously from the Israeli Government, from Netanyahu that he is accepting the formula of land for peace.

[Weiss] Would you see a meeting between Chairman 'Arafat and Foreign Minister David Levi as a significant step forward?

[Al-Tibi] I think that every partner in the peace process should meet, but the meeting is for the sake of both sides in order to continue the peace process. If somebody is not willing to meet, this is a real problem for the whole peace process. If there will be a meeting, the most important thing is what is the content. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas To Continue Resistance Against 'Occupation'

LD2706125196 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, June 27, IRNA — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will continue its resistance against Zionist occupation even if it takes another 100 years for the Palestinians to regain their land and enable 4 million refugees to return, says spokesman Ibrahim Ghushah.

The program of its military wing, Izz al-din al-Qassam Brigades, was "continuous resistance until occupation stops" and was not related to other events, he clarified in an interview in Jordan with the UK-based MUSLIM NEWS.

Ghoshah recalled that the crusaders stayed in Palestine for 200 years but were eventually driven out, saying "one day our land will return to Islam with the help of Muslims."

All operations were carried out on "principles of Islam and benefit to the Palestinian cause," the spokesman explained, adding that funds came from the people "not from regimes. [no end quotation as received]

Israel has also acknowledged that explosives are home-made and come from mines left over in the Sinai, where Hamas has access to.

Ghoshah painted a gloomy picture for the future of Yasir 'Arafat and his Palestinian Authority following the election of a right-wing Likud government in Israel.

He said that the "boat was now sinking" after 'Arafat had put all his eggs into one basket by supporting former Labor Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

For Hamas, a right-wing government would bring no change in Palestine as both Labor and Likud were in reality the same, only under Peres, it was more ambiguous, the spokesman said. "Both work for Zionism."

The only important difference, he saw, was that Likud was "open and clear," while Peres was "trying to be tricky and deceitful" and was more dangerous for Arabs and Muslims.

The change of government, Ghoshah believed, could result in pressure on Hamas being reduced as the "new obstacle was Likud," but he was doubtful if it would lead to a new dialogue with the Palestinian Authority.

He said he expected 'Arafat to increase his crackdown on the resistance movement rather than releasing its 1,500 Hamas prisoners, predicting that there would be a tacit understanding between Likud and the Palestinian Authority.

In return for a new crackdown, Likud Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu would "help 'Arafat in front of his people to appear as a national leader," the spokesman said.

Otherwise, if Likud kept its promises to renege on existing deals, he suggested 'Arafat would be seen as a "traitor by the Palestinians."

Palestinian Affairs: PA Officials on Jordan Border Clash

TA2606163296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] officials say today's terrorist attack on the Jordanian border proves that terror cannot be totally stopped and that the peace process must be pursued. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] informed the Palestinian Police in Jericho that the IDF was engaged in extensive activity against terrorists in the area and asked it not to disturb the movement of the Israeli troops. Life in Jericho continued as usual.

A senior PA source said today's terrorist attack proves terror cannot be totally stopped. The source cynically told me: Will Netanyahu now stop the peace with Jordan? Will he call off the agreement with Jordan? The remarks came in light of the prime minister's remarks that if terror continues there will be no peace. Hence, the PA may now use the incident to justify terrorist actions against Israel, if any occur, from the PA areas.

The Palestinian security services believe the attack was perpetrated by a terrorist squad which infiltrated into Jordan from Syria and belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command faction of Ahmad Jibril or to the Abu-Musa faction which seceded from Fatah.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Fatah-the Uprising' Said To Claim Attack on Israelis

JN2606182596 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Israeli soldiers were killed today in an operation near Jericho and the Jordanian border. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accused Syria of backing this operation. Meanwhile, the Damascus-based pro-Syria Fatah-the Uprising led by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] claimed responsibility for this operation, which has escalated the situation.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Says Summit Affirms Pan-Arab Principles

TA2606172496 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 25 Jun 96 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Bethlehem, AL-AYYAM — Ahmad Quray', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, has described the final communique of the Arab summit as "strong, coherent, and balanced, with a correct pan-Arab vision and supportive of the peace process. The communique also defines the terms of the peace process objectively without exaggeration or underestimation."

In a statement to AL-AYYAM, Quray' added that the communique affirmed national and pan-Arab principles. Consequently, it caused immense satisfaction in the Palestinian street and on the official and popular levels in Palestine.

He said: Israel must now implement the commitments that have been determined. It should, first of all, implement the temporary transitional agreements with the Palestinians, begin the final status talks, finally halt all settlement activity, and engage in serious negotiations with the Palestinians, Syria, and Lebanon. This is what is required of Israel if it wants peace with the Arabs. Commenting on what Israeli sources said about the intention of Netanyahu's government to amend the agreement on redeployment from Hebron, Quray' said: There is no issue that is subject to negotiations, and we will neither allow nor accept renegotiations about any of the agreed upon issues. This is because behind the renegotiation of any issue lies an attempt to reopen negotiations on all issues.

On the questions raised about the extent of the Arab states' commitment to the summit resolutions, Quray' said: In my view, no one forced any Arab state to agree to these resolutions. Therefore, they are Arab resolutions agreed upon unanimously by all the Arabs. Hence, the power of these resolutions will stem from the realization of a complete Arab consensus. No one was forced to accept the resolutions. Therefore, it can be said that they are resolutions that represent the Arab will.

He added: A mechanism under the leadership of Egypt was set up to follow up the implementation of the resolutions. The Republic of Egypt will follow up on the implementation of the resolutions with all the Arab states. Now the ball is in the Israeli court, as Israel is required to adhere to the peace process, especially since the Arabs — for the first time and with a unified decision — said they support the peace process as long as Israel remains committed to it.

Quray' referred to what is being disseminated about the preoccupation of the American sponsor with the preparations for the U.S. elections and them not having the time to promote the negotiations, and said: I believe the American sponsor is committed to the peace process because this process is very important to them. In my view, at present the peace process has not become an election issue as much as it has become part of U.S. foreign policy.

Quray' noted the special importance of last night's joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the National Authority Council of Ministers, especially since it was held in the wake of the summit conference and its positive results. This makes it possible to draw up specified perceptions on how to follow up and implement the summit's resolutions. He added: The Arab summit affirmed there will be no peace unless the Palestinian people exercise their right to self-determination and the right to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. This requires a Palestinian mechanism to follow up on the negotiating process and a mechanism to follow up with the Arabs on one hand, and with the Palestinian people on the other hand. Consequently, the utilization of these important resolutions is a Palestinian concern now. The Palestinian side must be efficient in this utilization in a manner that would serve its goals and national interests.

On Palestinian-Arab relations in light of the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad, Quray' said: Palestinian-Arab relations now are excellent, especially after the meeting between presidents 'Arafat and al-Asad in the presence of President Mubark. We consider this meeting a very positive step for us as Palestinians, and for Syria as well. Both of us are suffering from the occupation and both of us have land that is under occupation. We need Syria as much as Syria needs us. We want our relations to become sincere and unblemished once again so that we will be able to coordinate our efforts in following up the negotiating process.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Asfur Says Arab Summit Sent 'Message of Peace'

TA2506172596 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 24 Jun 96 p 3

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, director general of the Negotiations Affairs Department, by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arna'ut] What is your reaction to the final communique of the Arab summit, which concluded its work yesterday in Cairo?

['Asfur] Undoubtedly, the convening of the summit by itself is a very important political event in the regional equation. It gives new impetus to the Palestinian side. The summit's decisions are one of the important ingredients in the upcoming stage for supporting the Palestinian National Authority, the PLO, and the Palestinian negotiators in confronting the political changes in Israel.

The final communique was a message of peace, but peace must be within the framework of equilibrium and the principles and bases for whose sake the peace process was launched, and in order to achieve goals, especially Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese goals. The message was clear, namely, that peace is not only a word, but also has substance. Therefore, it was clear to the Israeli Government that the Arab leaders and presidents want to advance the peace process in a serious manner, but that there is no peace without a price.

The aspired for peace in the region will not be achieved except by complying with Palestinian rights and withdrawing from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon. The communique made clear that normalization does not move in one direction but is mutual: progress in relations in return for normalization. As for security, it must be for both sides. No one can demand security at the expense of others. This was the main content of the communique.

[Arna'ut] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has invited President 'Arafat to visit Damascus, and two days ago they met with each other. What impact, do you believe, this development in relations will have on the negotiations with Israel?

['Asfur] Development of Arab-Palestinian relations provides backing for the Palestinian negotiators, and when the talk is about two parties negotiating with Israel, the country is Syria. Syria is currently engaged in negotiations with Israel, and we too are conducting final talks with Israel. Certainly, coordination and interaction between the two countries is necessary and very important. The meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will give momentum to relations between the two countries and to the talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Undoubtedly, this is a very important matter at this stage.

[Arna'ut] Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi has said the talks with the Palestinians will begin within days. Are there any indications of this?

['Asfur] There is no assurance by the Israeli side about resumption of the implementation of outstanding agreements and the negotiations. We have only heard talk from the other side about peace and ambiguous statements.

[Arna'ut] It has been announced that Levi will meet with President 'Arafat within days, is this sufficient?

['Asfur] The issue is not who meets whom, but that their leadership must meet with the top of the Palestinian pyramid, who is brother President Yasir 'Arafat. In light of the fact that the Likud Party is trying to exploit this meeting so that it will be subject to bargaining and negotiating, we stress that this issue is neither subject to bargaining nor negotiating. This matter will not be resolved in accordance with the other sides's wish. Israel does not want to talk about preconditions. It is clear Israel wishes to abrogate all the rules of the peace process and wants to start from a vacuum. A vacuum does not lead to peace but to regression.

Palestinian Affairs: DFLP, PFLP Welcome Results of Cairo Arab Summit

JN2506171496 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 25 Jun (SANA) — A spokesman for the Unified Command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] welcomed the outcome of the Arab summit in Cairo, saying the summit was a step in the right direction toward restoring balance to the Arab position.

In a statement issued today, the spokesman called for implementing the summit's resolutions to bolster the

Arab position. The spokesman stressed the importance of collective commitment to the principle of full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, as well as to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, establishing an independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of refugees to return to their homeland, Palestine.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Views Cairo Summit Achievements

TA2506184196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p B3

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA local authority and municipal affairs minister, by Gay Bekhor; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat stood next to Yasir 'Arafat at the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab summit in Cairo. Three nights running he stayed up with Arab foreign ministers until 0330 in the morning arguing and drafting the final resolution of the Arab summit. When the summit was over he looked bitter and worried, particularly due to the Israeli reaction to it, which he thought was disappointing.

In his opinion, officials in Israel did not understand the messages of the Arab summit, misinterpreted the final communique, and have not yet reacted to the message Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority [PA], sent to Israel from Cairo to the effect that he wants to resume the negotiations at once.

"Israel must look at itself in the mirror and understand that it is a country in the Middle East, not above the Middle East," says 'Urayqat, then proceeding to warn that the autonomy will not stand on its feet for long. If Netanyahu sets out to maintain the status quo there will be a big collapse and a sharp Palestinian reaction that neither he nor Sharon can foresee. [passage omitted]

[Bekhor] It was reported in Israel that Egypt and Jordan tried to tone down the summit's resolutions, but the Palestinian position on the issue is not clear. Did you support the joint Egyptian-Jordanian effort?

['Urayqat] In my opinion, the point should not be missed that this was a breakthrough in the history of the Arabs, who are unanimously ready to pursue the peace process with Israel. However, the Arabs are also telling Netanyahu: Don't entertain any illusion that peace can be attained according to a different formula. If you waste time looking for a different formula, other than the formula of land for peace, the peace process will collapse.

If Netanyahu thinks that in politics there is a refrigerator that freezes processes then he is wrong. In politics it is always hot and there is always movement. Netanyahu does not have a third or fourth way, but only two ways: either continue the peace process or break it off. I would like to add something to the final resolution in the spirit of the summit as I witnessed it: This was a serious attempt by the leaders of the Arab countries to shift into the new world of the future.

A new language was used at the summit that took into account the changing world, economic vision, and interests at the expense of rhetoric. After all, we decided at the summit to create a free trade zone and establish an Arab court to settle disputes, as the first pan-Arab mechanism to settle internal conflicts differently than we have done so far.

[Bekhor] Throughout its history the Palestinian leadership has suffered from the interference of Arab countries in its affairs. The first time the Palestinians really made "an independent decision" was at Oslo. All you have achieved so far you did because you stepped out of the Arab consensus. So now, at the Cairo summit, you went back to al-Qadhdhafi and al-Asad, who tried on at least three occasions to eliminate 'Arafat and his movement.

['Urayqat] Such questions trouble me because they show people in Israel cannot stop thinking about the past, even when they analyze the Arab world. What did 'Arafat do at the Cairo summit? He delivered the strongest and clearest speech in favor of peace. One must also bear in mind that this is the first time there has been a unanimous pan-Arab decision to recognize the PA, seeing that until the communique was issued there were still several countries that objected to it.

[Bekhor] How was the surprising meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Hafiz al-Asad on the sidelines of the summit set up?

['Urayqat] The arrangements for the meeting were made by Mubarak, but this was more of a courtesy meeting than a session to discuss the variety of problems between Syria and the Palestinians. We are living in a changing Middle East, where the only force trying to check the changes is Israel.

[Bekhor] Do you think such a meeting bestows further legitimacy on 'Arafat and the Oslo arrangement? After all, al-Asad has been its staunchest opponent.

['Urayqat] The summit's final communique already does that, since it calls on everybody to support the PA. This is the first time all the Arabs recognize Oslo and the interim agreement.

[Bekhor] You have a very positive attitude toward the Cairo summit as contributing to the process of Israeli-

Arab reconciliation, whereas the general attitude of Israeli government circles is the opposite.

['Urayqat] I know that is the case when it comes to narrow-minded people, as there are many in the new government. The way they see it, you are either against them or for them; there is nothing in between. Some figures in the government worry me, but that is their problem.

[Bekhor] It actually is your problem and that of the PA. You might get stuck with autonomy alone and with decreasing legitimacy among your own people.

['Urayqat] Let it be clear: Autonomy will not stand on its feet for long. How can one summarize the Oslo process? For 70 years we had only one winner and one loser between Israel and the Palestinians, whereas in the last two to three years we tried to have two winners. If the Netanyahu government puts an end to the peace process, such as by perpetuating the autonomy, there will not be two winners but two losers.

[Bekhor] Finally, could you say that 'Arafat is now awaiting a phone call from Netanyahu?

['Urayqat] Let's put it this way: We want to continue the negotiations and we are waiting for a reciprocal move by Israel. Netanyahu must call 'Arafat, if he wants a partner.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Urges PNC To Pressure PA on Release of Detainees

TA2506171996 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jun 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to intercede with the Palestinian Authority [PA] to halt its measures against the Palestinian people's sons and institutions in the areas under its control.

In a letter sent by the Hamas Media Office to the PNC speaker's bureau in Amman, the members of the PNC, which represents the PLO parliament, were called upon to condemn the PA's practices and issue an urgent appeal for the release of prisoners of conscience from PA jails. The letter also urged them to establish committees to visit the detainees, to ascertain their prison situation, and to pressure the PA to guarantee freedom of the press, of journalists, and of all the Palestinian people's institutions.

Egypt

Egypt: Christopher, Musa, 'Arafat Hold News Conference

NC2606133796 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1224 GMT 26 Jun 96

[News conference by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with domestic and foreign correspondents in Cairo on 26 June—recorded; in English; italicized passages translated from Arabic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Musa] On behalf of President Mubarak, I wish to welcome President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher. The talks between President Mubarak and Secretary Christopher were very fruitful and important. Secretary Christopher briefed President Mubarak on the results of his talks in Israel regarding the peace process and the stances adopted by the new Israeli Government and the new prime minister. The talks will continue. As you know, we expect a visit by the Israeli prime minister at the invitation of President Mubarak. Afterwards, President Mubarak will visit the United States. The first item on his agenda is the peace process, the bases of the peace talks, and ways of guaranteeing positive and consecutive results. The basis on which we all agreed upon at the Madrid conference is the land-for- peace principle. The discussions between President Mubarak and Secretary Christopher centered on the peace process and other regional problems. We have also heard the news about the explosion that occurred in Saudi Arabia. President Mubarak expressed his condolences and sympathy with the victims. We expressed our condolences to the Saudi government over the victims. We are all against terrorist violence and will continue to work for more stable and secure Middle East. You may remember that the final communique of the Arab summit expressed its stand on the problem of terrorism. Egypt's stance is committed to this communique. I am not going to say more. I invite President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher to speak.

['Arafat] First of all, I would like to thank President Mubarak, who provided us with this opportunity to meet here. Second, I would like to send my condolences to the families of the victims of the explosion in Saudi Arabia. I also ask Secretary Christopher to convey my condolences to President Clinton and his government over this terror, which left many victims. We express our condolences and condemnation of this attempt. We held very important talks with Secretary Christopher on a peaceful settlement and agreement reached between us and Israel. We have declared our firm commitment to the peace process and we hope Israel will also be committed to the peace process. As you remember, it was quite clear at the Cairo summit and in the final communique that all Arab leaders are committed to the peace process and will push it forward. We hope the Israeli government will follow the same line, particularly to implement what was agreed upon and signed. There are many important points that we are waiting for the Israeli government to implement, such as withdrawal from Hebron, dismantling the settlements and releasing the detainees and other items regarding travel between Gaza and Egypt and between the West Bank and Jordan, and a corridor between the West Bank and Gaza. All these issues were discussed in detail. We hope that we will continue the process. I repeat that we are committed to the peace process and hope that the other side — Israel — will be committed to this process and implement what was agreed upon.

[Christopher] Good afternoon. I am very pleased to be here in Cairo. I met with President Mubarak, Chairman 'Arafat, and Foreign Minister Musa. Let me first say a few words about the situation in Saudi Arabia. I am both terribly sad and outraged by the terrorist attack on the American coalition military personnel in Saudi Arabia. I want to express my deepest sympathies to the families of those who [word indistinct] killed and wounded. I have decided to travel to Dhahran this afternoon in order to assess the situation personally and extend my condolences to the families [words indistinct]. This will enable me to report to President Clinton when I return to the United States very late at night or in the early hours of tomorrow morning.

This new terrorist attack reminds us of the spread of terrorism in this region and emphasizes once again the need for effective and coordinated actions against the scourge of terror.

At the same time of course it is not enough to combat terror alone. We must pursue peace with a new [word indistinct] of determination and energy.

During our discussion today we focused on ways to strengthen the Arab-Israeli negotiating process, which I know is [words indistinct] Egypt is playing a very important role.

As the foreign minister said, I briefed the president on my conversation yesterday with Prime Minister Netanyahu and [words indistinct] the Arab summit.

We both agreed that now is the time to focus on the resumption of negotiations. What is very clear from the discussion that I had in Israel yesterday and here today is that both the Israelis and Arabs have made a fundamental commitment to peace. The challenge now is to build on that commitment, build on the historic achievements over many years to reach a truly comprehensive peace, with all the work it deserves to implement the agreements already reached between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This would include the Declaration of Principles that was signed in Washington in 1994, the Gaza- Jericho Agreement that was signed here in Cairo, and the interim agreement signed in September 1995. I told both President Mubarak and Chairman 'Arafat that Prime Minister Netanyahu made it clear to me that he understands his obligation to honor all these agreements. He wants to develop a good working relationship with the Palestinians and I know he intends to take proper steps in this direction. [Words indistinct] move forward with the agreement between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. In this context, Prime Minister Netanyahu indicated yesterday he thought the Madrid framework is a very useful one for proceeding.

Surely part of this effort must involve economic development and cooperation so that peace can be available to and enjoyed by all the members of this region. I told chairman 'Arafat today that the United States will continue to provide economic aid to the Palestinians and help in every respect it can.

In addition, President Mubarak, I, and Foreign Minister Musa talked about the upcoming Cairo economic summit. We should work for its success. Of course I will discuss this with President Mubarak and other issues when he comes to Washington in late July.

I appreciate very much the opportunity to be here, to be with my colleagues and to discuss these important issues [words indistinct] of course in many respects a tragic moment. For our part, I want to emphasize that the United States will continue to regard the Arab- Israeli peace process as a very top priority. [Words indistinct] time to make it a reality. Our [words indistinct] will not be short or easy. Nevertheless, we will continue to [words indistinct] all those who are trying to undermine the peace process by terror or violence. [Words indistinct] succeed by working together with Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians and all those in the region. And I know we can make progress [words indistinct].

Thank you Mr. Minister for granting me this opportunity.

[Musa] We are going to answer few questions because President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher do not have much time.

[Correspondent] This is Egyptian television. The question is for Mr. Secretary. How far do you think the United States will continue to support the Israelis despite their clear threat to the Madrid agreement? Don't you believe that the constant support of Israel will make the people of this region angry and pose a danger to it?

[Christopher] The United States strongly supports the peace process constantly in accordance with the Madrid conference. It will work with all the parties concerned to carry forward the process which has brought us to this stage. I say that the Israeli Government fully understands its obligations toward the peace process including especially those with the Palestinians.

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary. In the press conference you held yesterday with Prime Minister Netanyahu, you said that the United States is committed to the strategic relations with Israel. Does this mean that the United States will adopt the Israeli view expressed by Netanyahu on the new settlements in the Golan and in other areas in Jerusalem?

[Christopher] The Unites States has long had a strategic relationship with Israel. This is well known and we do not intend to change that in any respect. On the other hand, our stand with respect to the other policies have not been changed. We are very clear and also recognize and respect the facts. The Israelis themselves are respecting all the agreements concluded.

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary, you said in your statement right now that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is committed to the peace process within the framework of the Madrid agreement. So, my question is that the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Hebron is widely seen as a litmus test for the new Israeli Government's commitment to the peace process. So when will the Israelis pull out from Hebron and whether the United States would be ready to exercise pressure on the new Israeli Government to abide by the Madrid agreements?

[Christopher] As I said before, the withdrawal or redeployment from Hebron is part of the existing agreements. Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed to us his commitment to implement all what was stipulated in the agreements with respect to Hebron. But we have to let the matter stand until this is done.

[Correspondent] When will this be done? According to a news report, which I have no knowledge of whether it is accurate or not, Egypt is receiving missile parts from North Korea. [Words indistinct] also indicated by the way Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit has been treated. To set the record [straight] on this, is there something to these stories and is it [words indistinct]?

[Musa] To the second part of your question. The president of Libya was here as a member of the Arab nation who has that right to come. As to the first part of your question, this issue was one of the issues that have been raised. But we believe that any such issue must be looked at within a wider framework. We should not talk about one particular aspect because the region is full of missiles, anti-missiles, and weapons of mass destruction. Therefore the issue you are raising now should be considered within a wider framework.

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary. What is the American perspective of the peace process on the Syrian track after Netanyahu's declaration that he will not give back the Golan Heights?

[Christopher] The United States has discussed the issue with Israel and Syria and is looking toward a resolution of the problem. We must now start negotiations and we hope that they will reach a resolution on this matter. We expect a solution to this difference so as to have comprehensive peace. We will continue to work with the various parties and help them solve their problems.

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary, the issue of the security of Israel is becoming increasingly important, even more important than peace in Israel. What about the security of the Arab world, especially that Israel is refusing to joint the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]? Will the United States try to convince Israel to join the NPT?

[Christopher] Let me repeat what I have already said. It is impossible really to imagine peace without security, and it also is not possible, I think, to conceive that there could be security without peace. That is why I think it is so important for all of us to focus on the peace process in the long run; that is where the ultimate security lies, and I was very pleased that the communique of the Arab summit indicated that all the Arab countries support the peace process. I am glad that President Mubarak told me this.

[Correspondent] But will the United States try to convince Israel to join the NPT?

[No answer, as heard]

[Correspondent Ibrahim 'Abidin of the Arabic Service of the Voice of America] In light of the no's Mr. Netanyahu announced very lately, is the United States ready to accept any change in the principles on which the peace process started?

[Christopher] That is in awfully broad question, but the United States has not changed or abandoned any of its positions. We will continue to maintain these positions. I stress to you that as it was at that time the ultimate decision, the ultimate (?negotiations) ended up the hard work of negotiations between the parties, just as they did between Jordan and Israel when they worked out their peace treaty, just as the Palestinians and Israel negotiated their Declaration of Principles. We therefore also expect an agreement between Israel and Syria. These generalities have only certain values; what really counts is the serious, daily work we do and the negotiations being conducted between the parties to achieve peace.

[Correspondent] Israel is refusing to resume peace talks with the Arabs in accordance with the land-for-peace formula. How can the talks now be resumed?

[Christopher] I am getting an unfair distribution of questions. Let me say this: The United States has had the policy, and continues to have the policy of land for peace. But at the same time, as I mentioned a couple of times here, generalities do not produce peace agreements. What produce peace agreements are difficult negotiations between the parties. The parties will have to move into those negotiations no matter how difficult they are, in the context of realities.

[Correspondent]*President 'Arafat, are you satisfied with the U.S. position, especially the support expressed by the U.S. secretary of state? And how do you react to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement that you are procrastinating in confronting terrorism?*

['Arafat]*First, we thank President Clinton and the U.S. Administration for their efforts to entrench peace in the region and implement what has been agreed-upon and signed in Cairo and Washington. Christopher's visit seeks to advance the peace process. But at the same time, we say that the Israelis must respect what we have agreed upon and signed in Cairo and Washington. As I said earlier, withdrawal from Hebron is one of the things that must be done immediately. Other pending issues are Israeli redeployment in the rest of the West Bank, the release of detainees, securing a safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza, and ending the long closure and siege against us. We are committed to the peace process but the other side must also commit itself to the peace process. He [Netanyahu] wants to close the border with us. It is not his right to close our border with Egypt or with Jordan.*

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary, what exactly is your view concerning the future of settlements and Jerusalem?

[Christopher] Those are both final-status issues. The Israelis and Palestinians are committed to discuss those issues as part of their final-status talks, which are scheduled to commence in the near future and extend over the next three years according the agreements. Those are very difficult and central issues, but they will be part of the final status talks.

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary, could you please tell us whether you discussed [words indistinct] with President Mubarak?

[Musa] Just a minute, just a minute. Now we have to conclude this press conference because of the schedule of [words indistinct] But there is something I wish to say: The United States' role is one of an honest broker and fair mediator in the peace process. We are for peace and the process of peace, seeking to conclude peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis, between Syria and Israel, and between Lebanon and Israel — a comprehensive peace. And here the role of the United States is appreciated, is needed, is felt. And in the forthcoming contacts, in particular the visit of President Mubarak to Washington, this position will be stressed, namely, that the peace process should continue according to the Madrid formula, according to the principles agreed upon in Madrid. Those bases are not preconditions; they are sine qua non for the peace to continue and succeed. Thank you very much.

Egypt: Mubarak Extends Condolences Over Saudi Bombing

NC2606205096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, tonight. He denounced the criminal, treacherous incident in al-Khubar, eastern Saudi Arabia, last night. President Mubarak offered condolences to the families of those who were killed or wounded in the painful incident.

President Mubarak held a similar telephone conversation with His Highness Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in which he denounced the criminal incident and extended condolences to the families of the victims and the wounded.

President Mubarak also sent a cable to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in which he denounced the criminal attack. He reaffirmed that the peoples of the region are determined to fight terrorism in all its forms because it poses a threat to humanity and its civilization and to peoples' security and safety.

President Mubarak also cabled heartfelt condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton on the victims of the sinful attack, which he said strengthens our resolve to fight terrorism and violence and to make every effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace, because this is the infallible guarantee for achieving security and stability for the peoples of the region.

Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri sent a cable of condolences to His Highness 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister, on the victims of the incident.

Egypt: Arab Information Ministers Condemn Blast in Saudi Arabia

NC2606155196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab information ministers have condemned the sinful terrorist act in Saudi Arabia. The ministers said this criminal act threatens security and stability in the region and emphasizes that terrorism is an international phenomenon and is not confined to one place.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif noted that the Arab summit declared unequivocally that the Arabs reject all forms of terrorism and extremism, which have become an international phenomenon. He noted that the Arab information ministers meet in Cairo today as the Egyptian people celebrate the first anniversary of President Husni Mubarak's safe return to the homeland from the sinful attempt that targeted Egypt and the Arab nation in Addis Ababa last year.

Egypt: 'Terrorist' Scheme Aborted, 61 Arrested

NC2606130896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—The Egyptian State Security Investigation sector dealt a new blow to an extremist terrorist organization. The leaders and members of the organization were arrested during storming operations against their hideouts and their hostile schemes were aborted.

An official source at the Ministry of Interior today said that the State Security Investigation sector has aborted the scheme of a terrorist organization in the central zone and lower Egypt. The organization was led by fugitive terrorist Husam-al-Din 'Abd-al- Fattah 'Abd-al-Hayy, an official in the military wing of the so- called Islamic Group.

A storming operation in the governorates of Cairo, Giza, al- Sharqiyah, and al-Minyufiyah resulted in the capture of 61 terrorist leaders and elements.

Information available to the State Security Investigation bureau indicated that fugitive terrorist Husam-al-Din 'Abd-al-Fattah was running the organization with the help of terrorist Husayn Mahmud Khidr, an electric engineer at a private sector company, who was responsible for communications, personnel training, and the making of explosive charges.

Surveillance revealed that the terrorists were planning an armed robbery against a jeweler store in al-Jizah during Friday prayers on 21 June.

The surveillance team tightened its monitoring process against the six terrorists who were supposed to carry out the scheme and arrested them before they could commit the crime.

The terrorists' hideouts in the said governorates were stormed and the 61 members and leaders of the organization were captured.

Terrorist Husam-al-Din 'Abd-al-Fattah worked as an aide to Tal'at Yasin Hammam, who was killed two years ago. He is also one of the leaders of the organization's military wing and wanted in connection with a number of cases, including case No. 520/1990, disturbances in al-'Imraniyah, case No. 531/1992, the attempted assassination of a police officer, and other cases.

Terrorist Husayn Mahmud Khidr, who was arrested with the organization members, is one of the most dangerous elements because of his experience in making electric circuits and explosive charges.

The storming operations resulted in capturing an automatic rifle, four pistols, 120 kg of TNT, seven explosive charges, and jerry cans filled with a highly volatile chemicals. Two semi-trucks, organizational documents, and notes of different currencies were also found.

A set of checks bearing the names of the organization members, including a lawyer, was found on an organization member as he was trying to leave the country.

Libya

Libya: Tripoli Regrets U.S. Rejection of Direct Talks

LD2606144396 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 26 Jun — The Voice of America [VOA] quoted the spokesman of the U.S. State Department as saying that his department has rejected Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's offer to hold talks with the American administration. The Great Jamahiriyah's representative to the United Nations has reacted in a press statement to America's rejection of the brother leader of the revolution's offer of direct talks with the American president. He made his offer in a live interview with the American network, CNN, from Cairo when he was attending the Arab summit conference.

The representative said: We greatly regret that the American Administration declined our offer to hold direct talks.

He pointed out, however, that such [a rejection] will generate worldwide astonishment at America's uncivilized behavior and its contradictory policies by trying, on the one hand, to force Arabs to negotiate with the Israelis despite the Israeli prime minister's negative statements in which he laid all sorts of obstacles in front of the [peace] process, and on the other hand, America's refusal to negotiate with the Great Jamahiriyah.

Furthermore, the representative added that such contradictions are being maintained despite the repeated Israeli aggressive practices against the Arab people in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and the massacres perpetrated continuously against the Arabs, the last of which was the massacre of Qana where over 100 babies, children, women, and elderly people were staying at the UN headquarters in the Lebanese village of Qana.

The Great Jamahiriyah's representative to the United Nations reiterated, in his statement, that the Great Jamahiriyah's offer of direct talks stemmed from the fact that it is a civilized country that respects international laws and conventions and from its belief that dialogue between countries is the best way to resolve all outstanding problems. He pointed out that America's rejection of this offer was an action that could lose America the world's respect.

Sudan

Sudan: State Minister Condemns Saudi Arabia Blast

EA2706093296 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1500 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] State minister at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, has condemned the explosion yesterday, Tuesday [25 June], in al-Khubar town, Saudi Arabia. He described the incident as contravening human rights and conventions. He urged all states in the region to join efforts to prevent such incidents disturbing security, and to work toward protecting innocent lives.

Sudan: Equatoria Defense Force Signs Peace Charter

EA2206195296 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government and representatives of the Equatoria Defense Force signed the Political Charter for Peace at the Republican Palace today, in the presence of Lieutenant General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic.

Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, legal advisor to the president of the Republic, and Musa Sid Ahmad, director general of the Supreme Council for Peace, signed the document on behalf of the government, while Mr. Theophilus

Ochang, leader of the Equatoria Defense Force, and the organization's military leader, Martin Keresio Kenyi, signed for the Equatoria Defense Force.

In a statement after the signing ceremony, Lt. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih asserted the government's commitment to the provisions of the charter, which, he said, have been accepted by all Sudanese. He said it represents the voice of reason that should silence war machines, referring, in this regard, to the effects of war in southern Sudan, and the subsequent enormous damage in property and loss of life. He reiterated that the door is still open to all those who took up arms to join the peace process, and to sign the charter. [passage omitted]

At the same venue, the leader of the Equatoria Defense Force, Dr. Ochang, said they have returned to the country to achieve peace, stressing that the continuation of war is a source of more destruction in the country. He added that they have studied the Charter for Peace and are convinced of the need to consolidate the peace efforts, and to participate in nation building. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Tunisia: President Ben Ali Rearranges RCD Politburo

LD2606165496 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The activities of the Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD] and its program of action in the period ahead was at the focus of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's attention today when he received RCD Secretary General Abdelaziz Ben Dhia.

Furthermore, his excellency the president has decided on a new composition of the RCD's Politburo, as follows:

Deputy Chairman of the Rally — Hamed Karoui

Secretary-general — Abdelaziz Ben Dhia

Treasurer — Abdallah Kallel

Members:
- Habib Boulares
- Mohamed Jeri
- Sadok Chaabani
- Habib Ben Yahia
- Mohamed Jegham
- Mrs. Neziha Zarrouk.

Tunisia: Foreign Ministry Statement Condemns Saudi Bombing

LD2606233596 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement:

Tunisia has received with great denunciation the news of the explosion which took place last night in Khubar in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

While Tunisia expresses its sympathy with its sister, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during this painful situation, it renews its denunciation of every terrorist act, and urges the international community to strengthen cooperation and coordinate its efforts in order to combat all forms of terrorism, irrespective of their source.

GCC: General Secretariat—Explosion Will Not Undermine Saudi Stability

LD2706102796 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2310 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 26 Jun — The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has condemned the criminal act in Khubar last night which killed innocent people, wounded others, and terrified peaceful people.

This came in a statement issued by the General Secretariat of the GCC yesterday evening. Having described the crime as ugly, alien to the GCC states, and in contravention with the teachings of the true religion of Islam, the GCC Secretary General Jamil Bin Ibrahim al-Hujaylan said that this crime will not undermine the security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that the sinful hands which planned and committed the hideous crime will not fulfill their aims nor escape justice.

The statement said that the explosion will not undermine the wise and determined political course which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed in its internal and foreign policy and with which it has gained the respect and appreciation of the Arab and Islamic worlds and the international community.

In conclusion, the GCC General Secretariat offered the families of the victims warm condolences and sympathies, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Amir Sends Condolences to Clinton on Blast Victims

JN2606181096 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, sent a cable of condolence to U.S. President Bill Clinton on the death of the victims of the criminal blast in al-Khubar, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Bahraini amir expressed the State of Bahrain's condemnation and denunciation of this act of terrorism.

Bahrain: Amir Phones King Fahd To Condemn 'Criminal' Explosion

JN2606142696 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, had a telephone conversation with his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, during which his highness expressed the State of Bahrain's condemnation and denunciation of the criminal and sinful action that took place in the city of al-Khubar in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, in which many innocent people were killed.

His highness also expressed his sincere condolences for, and sympathy with, the families of the innocent victims who were killed in this odious incident. His highness wished the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia security, stability, and prosperity and the Saudi people further progress under the wise leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Oman

Oman: Official Spokesman Condemns Dhahran Blast

JN2606142296 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Sultanate condemns and denounces the terrorist blast that took place in the city of al-Khubar, in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 25 June. The spokesman added: The Sultanate reiterates its backing and support for brothers in the Kingdom in their efforts to combat terror and terrorists.

In a statement issued today, the spokesman went on to say: Such an act requires the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members to work collectively and unify their efforts to confront such criminal acts in order to ensure the safety, security, and stability of the peoples of the GCC countries.

The spokesman said: It has become necessary to step up Gulf security measures to safeguard the economic and development gains the GCC members have made over the past few decades.

The spokesman expressed his trust that the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is capable of confronting such misguided acts. He urged the international community to stand united against those who stand behind sabotage plans.

Qatar

Qatar: Cabinet Condemns Dhahran Explosion, Lauds Summit Results

JN2606180896 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 26 Jun (WAKH)—The Qatari Council of Ministers expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the explosion that occurred in al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia, yesterday evening. In an ordinary session chaired by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar, the Qatari Council of Ministers reiterated its condemnation of such terrorist acts, which are criminal and strange to our society and religion. The Qatari cabinet said that such acts cannot, in any way, undermine Saudi Arabia's security and stability.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the council welcomed the results of the Arab summit that ended in Cairo on 23 June. The Qatari cabinet reiterated the need to continue the march to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, as well as to support the efforts aimed at resuming the peace process on all tracks in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, the land-for-peace principle, and the Madrid conference resolutions. The council expressed deep satisfaction with what was reiterated by the Arab leaders in Cairo and their determination to build Arab solidarity being the best way to achieve the aspirations of the Arab nation.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Group Claims Responsibility for Dhahran, Riyadh Blasts

JN2706052896 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An unknown person phoned the London-based AL-'ARAB newspaper to announce that the so-called Martyr 'Abdallah (al-Hudhayfi) group is responsible for the explosion that targeted the air base in Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, in which 19 Americans were killed, and 400 others of various nationalities were wounded as confirmed by the Saudi sources. The caller confirmed that this previously unknown group was also responsible for the bombing that took place in Riyadh last November against a training center for the Saudi National Guard, in which five Americans and two Indians were killed. The caller threatened further similar actions if Saudi Arabia fails to evacuate foreign troops from the country, particularly the Americans.

'Abdallah (al-Hudhayfi) — whose name is carried by this group which claims responsibility for the Dhahran blast — is a Saudi national who was executed last year after an acid attack on a serviceman.

Saudi Arabia: Hizballah al-Khalij Group Claims Responsibility for Bombing

JN2706081896 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Saudi Arabia, U.S. investigators from the FBI began examining the site of the explosion at the Saudi air base in Dhahran two days ago, which killed 19 U.S. soldiers.

A group calling itself Hizballah-the Gulf [Hizballah al-Khalij] today claimed responsibility for this attack.

Saudi Arabia: Al-Mas'ari Denies Involvement in Dhahran Blast

BR2706085596 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 27 Jun 96 p 6

[Report on interview with Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari by Barbara Stefanelli in London; date not given: "'It is the End of an Era, The Yankees Must Go'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "This illiberal regime's era must come to an end. And the Americans must leave the country: There are too many of them, their presence is no longer tolerated. This bomb is a sign, a warning: A change of course is required, and urgently, otherwise there will soon be more blood." Saudi opposition leader Muhammad al-Mas'ari commented in his London home, on the increasingly alarming reports coming in from the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Professor, you seem almost to justify the attack: So is it more than a mere coincidence that last time a massacre took place at a U.S. base, your organization was debated as a possible instigator? "I have nothing to do with these bombs. I do not justify them, but of course I understand the Saudi people's anger. They no longer accept this regime's lack of democracy or its stifling relationship with the Americans. We want reforms; we want a breath of fresh air in politics, in culture, and in daily life. And we want true independence from the West."

But Washington continues to state that there will be no weakening of its relations with Riyadh, and that absolutely no reduction in its military presence in the area is envisaged. This attack almost looks as if it has strengthened relations between the two governments. "The Americans would be well advised to remember Somalia, maybe even Vietnam," al-Mas'ari continued. "Much blood was shed but, in the end, they were forced to abandon their newly conquered domains."

Is this increase in violence against U.S. bases another sign of the regime weakening from the inside? "King Fahd's era is over. It has ended in the 'defeat of civilization.' This sovereign, who was intelligent and blessed with charisma, could have implemented major reforms. He could have led the country into the modern world. Instead, we currently have very high illiteracy levels, political life is paralyzed, and the economic boom is over. The country is on the verge of civil war: Even Saddam is better loved than King Fahd. The people's wrath and fundamentalism are increasing."

Do you believe that foreign forces — Iran, Iraq, Syria — have a hand in fomenting this wrath, and maybe even in organizing these attacks? "I do not believe in the foreign power plot theories. But relations between Islamic militants always stretch right across borders, because the Arab countries are part of a single unit, the great Muslim family. They are natural relations. We respect the decision of those who choose to fight in the name of Islamic law, but we would like to lead the way toward the shariah without bringing about a civil war, and without having to resort to massacres in order to oust the foreign occupation forces."

Saudi Arabia: Al-Mas'ari—Americans 'Legitimate Target' in Saudi Arabia

LD2706093996 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0902 GMT 27 Jun 96

[By Gavin Cordon, political correspondent, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bombers who attacked a United States base in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Americans and injuring nearly 400 people, had an "intellectually very strong" case for their action, a British-based Saudi dissident said today. The U.S. could face further terror attacks in the wake of the bombing of the Dharhan base unless it pulled its forces out of Saudi Arabia, warned Dr Muhammad Al-Mas'ari.

Dr Al-Mas'ari — who successfully appealed against Government attempts to deport him from Britain because of his opposition to the Saudi regime — said he did not condone the attack. But he accused the Americans of propping up Saudi Arabia's ruling house of Al Saud in the face of popular opposition. In the bombers' eyes, it was as if the U.S. had directly invaded their country. "The Americans have become a very convenient target, being a shield for Al Saud, standing between Al Saud and the people. They are quite an easy target from a religious and moral point of view," he told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme.

He challenged the Saudi Government to hold a popular vote on whether the Americans should stay in the country — and predicted that the outcome would be a resounding majority for the U.S. to pull out. The Americans would become legitimate targets if they tried to ignore such a vote. "If they didn't go then, this means a state of war in the internationally accepted and clean sense, but other people might choose to go to war directly now, like these groups," he said.

"I feel because formally the regime invited them...there is a doubt about the fact that they are a war target and this doubt is sufficient for me to exclude such action from my side — but in other minds who did that there is no doubt. They have another point of view. It is as good as if the Americans have jumped on the border and invaded directly. This is a point of view which is intellectually very strong. It is not as strong as my point of view."

Dr Al-Mas'ari's comments are likely to anger the Saudis, who put pressure on the Government to expel him from Britain because of his long-running campaign of opposition to the regime. They will also displease ministers who fear that Britain's lucrative trade with Saudi Arabia could be hit because of Dr Al-Mas'ari's activities.

Saudi Arabia: Al-Mas'ari—Attacks on Americans 'Will Never Stop'

NC2606185896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi oppositionist Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, has stated that attacks against the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia will never stop. AFP cited him saying that the U.S. presence in Saudi territory is illegitimate and the regime that brought the Americans is also illegitimate because it is not based on the principles of shura and elections.

Al-Mas'ari asked: The Iraq affair ended long ago so why should the Americans remain on Saudi territory? He stressed that a radical solution lies in releasing prisoners and carrying out reforms.

Saudi Arabia: Opposition Leader—Security 'of No Use' in Bombing Wave

NC2606142896 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, June 26 (AFP)—A Saudi opposition leader warned Wednesday [26 June] that tough security measures and punishments would fail to stop an anti-US bombing wave in Saudi Arabia which he attributed to "enthusiastic youths."

Sa'd al-Faqih, head of the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (MIRA), told AFP when contacted in London that the attack "will not be the last, and such acts will not stop," but added his group had no link to the attack.

"Security measures taken at American installations or the punishment of the bombers will be of no use, as Tuesday's attack shows," al-Faqih said.

Nineteen Americans were killed and hundreds were wounded when a truck bomb exploded at a compound housing US servicemen at a Saudi air base in Khubar, eastern Saudi Arabia, late on Tuesday.

In May, the US embassy in Riyadh said it had received bomb threats against Americans after the arrest of four Saudis accused of blowing up US military offices in Riyadh in November, killing seven people.

The four were executed on May 31.

"The only solution is peaceful reform and the release of all imprisoned leaders who alone can control enthusiastic youths who believe that violence is the only way possible," al-Faqih said.

MIRA was formed after it broke away in March from the London-based opposition group, the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, led by Muhammad al-Mas'ari.

Saudi Arabia: Foreign Minister Reassures Christopher on Security

LD2706094496 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0250 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dhahran, 26 June [date as received] — His Excellency U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher thanked the servant of the two holy places King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, their highnesses the crown prince, the foreign minister, the ambassador of the servant of the two holy mosques to Washington, and all the staff of the Saudi government departments for the efforts and help they rendered to those wounded in the explosion in Khubar last night, including the American ones.

At a joint news conference held with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, at Dhahran airport yesterday, Warren Christopher praised the servant of the two holy pLaces and his highness the crown prince for their efforts not only regarding the peace process but on the regional level as well.

The American secretary of state expressed his indignation and condemnation for the painful event that took place last night in Khubar.

He made clear that this action was directed against peace in the Arab region and that the escalation of violent acts, destruction, and bombing in the region is not in the interests of any party seeking peace.

He added: "Sooner or later, the one who perpetrated this criminal act will be exposed and punished and we will not allow anybody to disrupt the peace process and security in the region and to carry out such subversive acts." [passage omitted]

His highness said that the government of the two holy mosques will not allow anybody to obstruct peace and security in the region.

He stressed that the government of the two holy mosques will not be lenient or allow anybody to perpetrate subversive acts against international interests and will deny any opportunity for aggression against the guests of the kingdom.

His highness added: "We appreciate the participation and the visit of his excellency the U.S. secretary of state and the delegation accompanying him."

Replying to a question put to his royal highness, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, on whether there is a connection between this act, the outcome of the Arab summit held in Cairo, and the recent explosions in Bahrain, his highness said: We should not focus now on theories, especially as the Saudi security organs are working seriously to identify the responsible perpetrator and his aims and purposes.

His highness added that all these details will be clearer soon, God willing.

Saudi Arabia: Deputy Defense Minister on Ties With U.S., Bomb Attack

LD2606222296 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2110 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khubar, 26 Jun (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, pointed out that he conveyed a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to the wounded and injured people in the explosion which took place last night, which included King Fahd's, may God preserve him, wishes for a speedy recovery.

In a news conference today after his inspection visit of the wounded and injured, the deputy defense minister said that he hope the criminals who carried out this criminal act will be discovered as soon as possible. His highness pointed out that this incident aimed at causing concern. [passage omitted]

Regarding the effect of the criminal act on military cooperation between the Kingdom and the United States, his highness responded by saying: "I do not think that such an issue will have any effect whatsoever on Saudi-American relations." He stressed that this incident is despised by everyone, be it the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, America, or any other country, and that it will not affect relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Concerning on any link between the al-Ulayya incident in Riyadh and the Khubar incident, his highness said: "This remains unknown, but punishment will be applied to whoever committed this criminal act, be it a group or individuals." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Crown Prince, Others Receive Phone Calls Condemning Bombing

LD2606214296 Riyadh SPA in English 2028 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 26, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received here today a number of telephone calls from a number of Arab leaders and officials who condemned the explosion incident that took place in Khubar, the eastern province, last night.

He received telephone calls from Lebanese Premier Rafiq al-Hariri, Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the member of the Revolutionary Council in Libya, Bahraini Premier Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al-Khalifah, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Vice-President Dr Rif'at al-Asad.

On the other hand, the Qatari Cabinet, at its meeting held in Doha today under the chairmanship of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, deplored the explosion incident and described it as a terrorist act.

On the other hand, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, received today telephone calls from Lebanese Premier Rafiq al-Hariri and Jordanian Premier 'Abd-al-karim al-kabariti who deplored the criminal explosion incident that took place in Khubar last night.

Meanwhile, Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'aziz, the interior minister, received today telephone calls from Bahraini Premier Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman al-Khalifah and Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammed Bin Khalifah al-Khalifah, as well as Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Husayn 'Arab, who condemned the explosion incident.

Saudi Arabia: Editorial—Blast Will Strengthen Resolve To Fight Terrorism

MM2706094396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 9

[Editorial: "Terrorism And Gangsterism: Killing Innocent People Without Prior Warning Is a Method of Gangsterism, No Matter What the Perpetrators Say To Conceal the Objective of Their Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The car bomb explosion that occurred in the residential complex in the al-Khubar area on Tuesday [25 June] was designed to kill and wound the largest possible number of people. And death was the perpetrators' principal message to the outside world.

While the charred bodies are collected for identification and the debris removed, the world once again awakes to the saddening reality of terrorism, which is still the main threat to peace and stability in more than 40 countries on almost all continents.

We write today on the emergence of the car bomb method as another form of terrorism affecting a large number of countries, beginning with Burma through Turkey and the UK and ending with the United States.

It must be stressed here that terrorism has never succeeded — anywhere in the world — in achieving any of its declared aims. The only thing which has been achieved through this terrorist tactic is the consolidation of political and social coherence in the afflicted nations. No honorable society is going to allow a handful of terrorists to force it to alter its course on any issue, no matter how minor.

The days in which terrorism — staged under the cover of real or fabricated issues — enjoyed respect have gone. Civilization now considers terrorism merely another form of crime, which should be uprooted by the force and might of the law. Killing innocent people without prior warning is a method of gangsterism, no matter what the perpetrators say to conceal the real objective of their action.

The al-Khubar incident is a blatant attack on Saudi Arabia — government and people. The aim is to influence certain aspects in the Kingdom's domestic and foreign policy.

Without doubt the incident will have an impact, but not the impact the terrorists want. The explosion will strengthen Saudi Arabia's determination to fight all forms of terrorism, in full cooperation with its allies inside and outside the region.

The Kingdom will work to redouble the efforts to arrest the perpetrators, no matter where they hide, and take them to court as soon as possible.

Saudi Arabia's policies at the domestic and foreign level are the fruit of years of experience and tireless work and thus cannot be undermined easily. Because they reflect the approach of a nation determined to modernize its economy, social structure, and decisionmaking methods without abandoning its noble values and traditions.

Terrorism is an imported foreign commodity that is alien to Saudi values and traditions. Thus people will not accept anything less than the quick arrest of the perpetrators and their punishment in accordance with the rules of the Shari'ah.

Yemen

Yemen: Leaders Extend Condolences to Saudis, U.S. Officials

JN2606193796 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih sent a cable of condolence to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the criminal action that took place at the al-Khubar Base. The cable reads:

Dear Brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques: With extreme sorrow and deep sadness, I received the news of the treacherous, criminal action at the al-Khubar Base in the city of Dhahran in fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In my own name and on behalf of your brothers in the Republic of Yemen, I extend to you our heartfelt condolences on the victims of this abominable action. We also reiterate the Republic of Yemen's strong denunciation and condemnation of such hideous acts of terrorism. We are confident that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is capable of decisively confronting such acts of terrorism and all the attempts to tamper with the security of the fraternal Saudi people, which is part of Yemen's security and that of all the fraternal Arab countries. Once again, I repeat my condolences, beseeching God to protect the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its fraternal people from all evils.

[Signed] Your brother, Lt. Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also held a telephone conversation today with his brother His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard. The president expressed his strong condemnation of the the act of terrorism that took place in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, claiming the lives of dozens of Americans who were at the housing complex, which belongs to the Saudi Defense and Aviation Ministry.

The president expressed the support of our country's leadership, government, and people for fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He reiterated our country's denunciation of all acts of violence and terrorism, regardless of their source and in any part of the world, which we all hope will be free of acts of violence and terrorism. We, in Yemen, consider any attempt to disrupt the security and stability of fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia an attempt to disrupt the security of Yemen and all the region's states.

The Saudi crown prince expressed appreciation to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for his telephone call, his fraternal solidarity, and his denunciation of the act of terrorism against the Kingdom's security and stability.

The president also sent a cable of condolence to U.S. President Bill Clinton. The cable reads: With deep regret, I received the news of the criminal act at al-Khubar Base in the Saudi city of Dhahran, in which a number of Americans were killed.

We express to you, and through you to the victims' families, our heartfelt condolences. We also strongly denounce this heinous act of terrorism. We are confident that such abominable acts of terrorism will not affect the international community's resolution to combat all forms of terrorism, regardless of their source, in any part of the world. Once again I repeat my condolences. Best regards.

Major General Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi extended condolences to U.S. Vice President Al Gore for the victims of the al-Khubar explosion.

In a telephone call via the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, the vice president said that the Republic of Yemen extends condolences to the victims' families and the U.S. Government and denounces all forms of terrorism. It also calls on the international community to assume its responsibility to put an end to terrorism that targets innocent people and disrupts world peace and security.

Iraq: Al-Anbari Leaves for New York To Deliver Food Purchase Plan

JN2706082996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the UNESCO, and the delegation accompanying him left for New York to deliver to the UN secretary general the plan for purchasing and distributing food, medicine, and other urgent basic civilian needs.

A source at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry told INA that this plan was worked out in Baghdad, and was coordinated between the concerned Iraqi ministries and departments and the coordinator of the UN humanitarian program in Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Iraq and the United Nations on 20 May.

The source added that in accordance with this memorandum, the UN secretary general will take the necessary measures to endorse and implement the plan.

Dr. al-Anbari is accompanied by Dr. Shawqi Murqus, under secretary of the Ministry of Health.

Iraq: Tariq 'Aziz Receives IAEA Official

JN2706104296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received Professor Maurizio Zifferero, vice president of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The meeting was attended by the president of the Iraqi Nuclear Organization.

Iraq: Inspection Reportedly Prompted by Weapon Test

JN2606182896 Amman AL-HAQIQAH in Arabic 22 Jun 96 p 4

["Exclusive report from London"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the lenses of the satellite orbiting over Iraqi territory were taking photographs and sending them back to the control room for the data to be analyzed by experts in the U.S. Pentagon, the alarm sounded. Soon enough, controllers rushed into action and focused the satellite lenses on the site that signaled the warning. On their monitors, they saw dense dust hovering at a very high altitude above an area one-kilometer in diameter. The site was pinpointed as a desert area in the south of Iraq; specifically, between the Governorates of Dhi Qar and Maysan. A state of emergency was declared to study and analyze the data and the images transmitted by the satellite cameras. The data was immediately wired to the White House in Washington with the message that Iraq had successfully tested a weapon of mass destruction, detonating an explosion much like the one a nitrogen bomb [as published] would produce.

Immediately afterward, President Clinton was on the phone, communicating to the leaders of allied nations around the world the contents of the messages sent by the satellite. The United States stressed the need for the information to be kept secret until Washington had time to get a fuller picture of the matter and then take the measures it deemed appropriate for the circumstances, making sure that, in the process, Saddam Husayn would be denied a potential groundswell of support and sympathy from the Arab masses.

The disclosure that Iraq had detonated such a device could once again paint Saddam as the savior of the Arabs and enable him to dazzle simpletons and the men in the street in the Arab world who were once hypnotized by the charm of his (pan-Arab heroism), despite the fact that the myth was punctured and he was shown to be a virtual paper tiger through his ignominious defeat at the hands of the international alliance that drove him from Kuwait, not to mention his display of absolute and pathetic submission to UN resolutions.

The Americans also argued that it would be best not to go public on the matter in order to rob Arab hard-liners and opponents of peace with Israel of a chance to whip up regional tensions and incite more hatred, particularly against the background of the return of Binyamin Netanyahu and the Likud to power in a coalition with ultranationalist and extremist Jewish religious parties, particularly considering their leaders' anti-Arab and anti-Muslim inflammatory rhetoric.

The United States moved to send international inspection teams to Iraq. The UN teams inspected several industrial sites and then headed for the Republican Guards headquarters. When the UN inspectors arrived at the guard camps at Abu Ghurayb, on the outskirts of Baghdad, the sentries at the main gate contacted the post commander, who in turn asked the inspectors to wait until he had obtained permission from the political leadership. The post commander was ordered by the political leadership not to allow anyone into the camp. Minutes later, a military vehicle carrying a number of officers of the Special Security Organ (the president's guard) arrived at the entrance to the camp and then drove in to take direct responsibility for the camp's security and to make sure the international inspectors were barred from the compound. The UN inspection team, however, remained outside the camp until they were notified that approval could not be obtained for them to enter. The team then had to leave the reception room at the entrance to the camp. The international team members deployed themselves around the camp's perimeter to make sure no materials were smuggled out by the Iraqis.

After a long wait, the UN team contacted their superiors, who in turn held urgent contacts with the Iraqi political echelons, demanding, but failing, to get clearance to enter the camp. With the camp occupying a fairly large area and thus rendering it difficult for the inspection team to keep track of the activities going on inside, plus the fact that there were not enough of them to cover the entire extent of its perimeter and their cameras could not take in its full range, the only opening left for the team and their cameras was the camp's entrance, already blocked by a human shield of Iraqi soldiers.

The inspection team, having lost hope of being allowed into the camp, were ordered by their military command to keep themselves informed of what was going on inside it by using their helicopter to take pictures, but they were met with an uncompromising and vigorous response by Iraqi soldiers, who trained their antiaircraft guns on the helicopter and told them to stay clear of the airspace directly over the site, because it is an out-of-bounds military zone. The overflights by helicopter over the most important Iraqi camp, which houses the elite of the Iraqi forces, was viewed by Iraq as an act of spying and detrimental to the country's territorial integrity.

Faced with the Iraqis' stubbornness, the international team had no choice but to pull back, which resulted in a buildup of tension between Iraq and the United Nations. The UN representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom hastened to have the world body pass a resolution condemning Iraq and demanding that it allow the inspection team access to the camp. Iraq countered with proposals of its own to the UN Security Council, stipulating that the inspection be conducted jointly by Iraqi experts and the UN team in the presence of Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission. The Security Council response was to come out more strongly against Iraq.

There is also the possibility that within the next few days the Security Council might pass another condemnation, accusing Iraq of a cease-fire violation. The United Nations might then adopt a hard-line posture, leading to a military strike or the freezing of the implementation of Resolution 986, under which the oil-for-food deal was achieved.

The UN inspectors had to leave Iraq for their headquarters in Bahrain, pending the arrival of Rolf Ekeus, who announced that he was going to visit Iraq at the invitation of Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz.

The Iraqis are believed to have made a breach in the camp's fence along some farmland. Equipment, materials, and documents that had been hidden at the camp were then smuggled out.

Now what were the Iraqi's hiding inside the Republican Guard camp?! That is the big question being asked by all interested parties. The photographs sent back by the satellite cameras show that the equipment used in the explosion was moved back to the Presidential Guards camp on the outskirts of Baghdad. As for the test area, a large amount of equipment and crews were deployed there to work around the clock for days on end to eliminate the physical traces of the explosion, which was felt in the towns close to the test site. However, the UN inspectors' sophisticated gear is such that it can detect any such explosion, efforts by Iraqi scientists and workers to tamper with and replace the soil at the test site notwithstanding.

Far from wanting to provoke Iraq by asking to visit the test site, which would lead the Iraqis to spirit away the equipment they sought, the UN inspectors adopted the diversionary tactic of visiting several industrial sites to camouflage their inspection tour and create the pretense that their visit to the camp was not preplanned, but was selected in response to signals provided by the electronic sensory equipment, which is capable of making an error. This is because the camp contains numerous inputs for weapons comparable to those being sought by the inspectors. Such an approach would lead the Iraqis to think the visit had not been planned in advance, since it was not preceded by a visit to the test site. The Iraqis, however, did not give the inspectors the freedom to achieve their goal and make their mission a success.

There has been no mention by any country or the United Nations of Iraq having conducted any such test. Any such announcement would have meant that Iraq had managed to dupe the international community for the last five years into buying its contention that it no longer possessed the capability to manufacture any type of the weapons of mass destruction — not even the more conventional types like the rockets, the technology for which is available to many countries, in contrast to the nitrogen bombs that even the major powers themselves find difficult to test.

Iraq had shown a high degree of flexibility on some issues — normalization with Israel and joining the Middle East peace process, for example — on which it had previously adopted an extreme position. The international reaction, especially on the part of the uncompromising United States and the United Kingdom, was therefore at once tough and measured. At the same time, both the United States and the United Kingdom do not seem to see the right approach for handling the latest crisis in the war of words that has thus far been the hallmark of the previous confrontations between Iraq and the United Nations. Moreover, there have been mixed reactions, if brewing under the surface, on the Arab and especially Gulf fronts. Press reports published in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf states claim that Iraq has violated the cease-fire agreement enshrined in Security Council Resolution 687, which was passed in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

If the information in this report proves accurate — it was compiled by our own special sources in London, who got it from reliable and informed sources — a tough period lies ahead for Iraq in its face-off with the world community, which could see the world powers with the real say in the matter at last take drastic measures. These measures may include effecting a change in the Iraqi regime, especially since President Saddam Husayn has persistently defied and flouted UN resolutions and has sought to acquire weapons of mass destruction, contrary to the will of the international community. This possibility is made more likely given that the UN-imposed sanctions, in place for more than five years now, have failed to dissuade the Iraqi president from pursuing what he had set out to achieve, a course in which the most direct pain falls squarely on ordinary Iraqis.

Iraq: 'Udayy Reportedly Orders Killing of Aide

JN2606170696 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Criminal 'Udayy [Saddam Husayn] ordered the killing of Muhammad al-Rawi, one of his former aides who traded stocks on the Baghdad Stock Market.

Our sources said that security authorities found the body of Muhammad al-Rawi at Baghdad's island [passage indistinct].

People believe that the criminal 'Udayy is behind al-Rawi's death, especially since he charged al-Rawi with concluding a deal to buy several shares for himself, taking advantage of 'Udayy's influence on the Baghdad Stock Market. The deceased was an escort of the tyrant's son and was used for special missions.

Our sources said that the big merchants that deal in foreign currency and stock market speculation believe that 'Udayy uses terrorist practices when he fails to conclude deals or invest in shares. They added that al-Hajj Habib 'Abd Sid, a clothing merchant, was forced to pay $150,000 as protection money to 'Udayy to avert terrorist reprisals.

Iraq: Turkish Bombers Reportedly Raid Iraqi Kurdistan

LD2706083796 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, W. Azarbaijan Prov., June 27, IRNA — Turkish fighter bombers heavily raided areas in north of Iraq's Kurdistan on Wednesday [26 June], reported the radio of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Thursday. Meanwhile, Turkish helicopters after landing in 'Soran Madani' area arrested several villagers, said the radio, monitored here.

According to the radio, the Iraqi forces on Wednesday heavily shelled PUK positions in Kani Kajale region.

The Iraqi army since last month has been systematically shelling positions of the opposition Kurdish groups. The Iraqi Kurds in a number of occasions have repelled the attacks inflicting many casualties on government forces, said the radio report.

According to the radio, attacks on areas under the control of Kurds are aimed at exerting pressure on Kurdish forces fighting against the Baghdad regime.

Iraq: Paper on 'New Success' of Arabian Peninsula 'Resistance'

JN2706080096 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the devastating bomb attack against the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday [25 June] night will fully convince Washington that keeping its units in the Arabian Peninsula will be like sitting on a mine or volcano.

In an analysis today, the newspaper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, recalls the November incident which was carried out by the resistance men in the Arabian Peninsula. The paper says that targeting the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia and actively resisting it reflect the extent of the strength, expansion, and growth of the resistance carried out by the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula. This also embodies their great ability to exhaust and embarrass foreign forces.

AL-THAWRAH expresses its conviction that the new success achieved by the resistance men of various factions in the Arabian Peninsula, through their strikes at the very policy of the Saudi regime, is now an existing and tangible reality that will strongly prompt the Americans to reconsider their calculations with regard to continuing their stay on Arab territory.

Israel: Netanyahu on Peace, Terror, Finance Policy

TA2606143896 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 96 pp 2, 19

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Nahum Barne'a and Shim'on Schiffer in Netanyahu's bureau in Jerusalem on 25 June "immediately after his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [YEDI'OT AHARONOT] In your conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today, did you express your anger over what you saw as a U.S. intervention in Peres' favor in the elections?

[Netanyahu] We dealt with the future, not the past. The future is important to both countries. I do not intend to dig up the past.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Were you hurt by the way the Americans treated you when you were in the opposition?

[Netanyahu] U.S.-Israeli relations are primarily between nations. They do not necessarily depend on the people on the job at a given moment. I have known Clinton for years and we like each other. I intend to keep the tradition of good relations with the United States, regardless of what they did or did not do in the past.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you personally sympathize with President Clinton? After all, you belong to the same generation?

[Netanyahu] He is a little older.... I do not think we will have a problem finding common ground.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Now that you are sitting in the prime minister's bureau, does the job seem different than what you thought it would be?

[Netanyahu] First of all, it is a great responsibility. I will describe one feeling: Enormous responsibilities are placed on this desk. Primarily, the responsibility to preserve the security and future of this state is far greater than anything any other world leader must face. Most Israeli prime ministers devoted the majority of their efforts to defense and political issues. The difference now is that I intend to devote a significant part of my time to social and economic issues that did not previously receive enough attention. The time has come when a prime minister cannot exclusively deal with foreign and security issues and leave domestic and economic issues to others.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Can you really tell the public that you have the best available ministers and advisers? Where is the excellence you spoke of?

[Netanyahu] The government is good, more than good. It will be proven. I tried, to the best of my ability, to assign ministers to offices that suit them. This is no platonic regime in which a philosopher-king dictates everything. We have coalition considerations.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] You said once that when you are prime minister, you would like someone like James Baker on your side, but you ended up with Pinhas Fischler. How did you appoint a bureau head you hardly know?

[Netanyahu] I do not agree that I had to come here with just the people I previously worked with. If I did, I would never expand my staff. We moved from party to government office, and new forces should be brought in. I am establishing the National Security Council with this concept in mind.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What will this team do?

[Netanyahu] It is a staff that will help the prime minister make policy. My predecessor used to receive reports from numerous sources, but was exclusively in charge of analysis, synthesis, and drawing conclusions. Unlike him, I do not believe this is a good method. I believe there should be an intermediary body. The national security team will not have executive powers and, naturally, the prime minister will be in charge of making the decisions.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Who will eventually conduct negotiations for you? Who, for example, will talk to the Palestinians?

[Netanyahu] It will be made clear soon. Still, I do intend to open several channels on several levels with the Palestinians to conduct negotiations.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Who will do that, the army?

[Netanyahu] I issued a clear order to maintain the ongoing relations between us and the Palestinian Authority [PA], that is: joint patrols, officers' meetings, and joint committees. Political echelons will deal with political negotiations. The security forces' job is to deal with security and leave policy matters to those in charge of policy. If political matters spilled over into the military, it is wrong and should be corrected.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Will you appoint such a person?

[Netanyahu] Such persons. They will work on my behalf in the Prime Minister's Office and in other ministries.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Why is it so hard for you to say: I, the prime minister, will meet PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat? Why do you have to speak in preconditions all the time?

[Netanyahu] I said we will have contacts with the PA, including 'Arafat who heads it.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Why not you? He is your partner. Pyramids have a top.

[Netanyahu] If this is called for, I will consider it.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Did Christopher get answers from you about Hebron?

[Netanyahu] I told him I believe Hebron is a very difficult and complicated problem. Hebron is not Qalqilyah; it touches the very core of Jewish existence. The patriarchs and matriarchs are buried there. The continuity of Jewish settlement there was severed only after the 1929 pogroms. Hence, there is a deep security problem. It would be a mistake to act rashly and without thinking only because someone is trying to make us hurry. I noticed that the outgoing government did not make haste on this issue. It is a complex problem. I am studying it and we will reach conclusions eventually.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Is it not true that the army is recommending that the agreement be kept and Hebron be evacuated?

[Netanyahu] Opinions in the defense establishment vary.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Sir, do you have any new message regarding the talks with Syria?

[Netanyahu] If the parties try to force a solution on each other, we will collide very quickly. I believe the recent attempt made in the Cairo summit to dictate terms on the Syrian issue to Israel did not contribute to peace. What has happened since the Israeli elections? There was a Syrian initiative — that, to my regret, was hosted by Cairo — to force preconditions on the State of Israel. We will not accept such an approach. We do not believe in dictates.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Are you suggesting that the Madrid conference reconvene?

[Netanyahu] I am pointing to the opening conditions of the Madrid conference. Physically convening is less important to me. I am definitely looking for additional channels of communication with Syria. Syria, as well as the Palestinians, must realize that progress toward peace primarily depends on security. We do not believe in having two parallel processes: Destabilizing security while making progress on peace. This is wrong. Security is a permanent condition. Terror does not correspond with progress toward peace.

Syria and the Palestinians must decided what they want — terror or moving toward peace. They cannot have both. In any kind of negotiations we hold with Syria, the first item on the agenda I will raise will be the termination of terror. I will make no concessions on this issue. My stand will not be flexible because this is the foundation of peace. Peace talks that serve as cover for terror are no sign of a true intention to make peace. It is impossible to hold negotiations while suffering measured doses of terror, according to which if Syria feels we are not meeting its demands, there will be less terror; and if it feels we are, there will be more terror.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you think the same holds true for the Palestinians? Will you order halting the negotiations if there is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror?

[Netanyahu] Absolutely. In practice, even the most complacent government has to come to this conclusion. Once you adopt the principle that our fatalities are the victims of peace and that terrorists should not be rewarded, which is what they said, you are giving them an incentive to keep attacking us and intensify terror. Let there be no doubt: I am definitely interested in making progress in the political negotiations with the Syrians and the Palestinians. But I will not play the old game again: Terrible terror attacks, several days of closure, then back to negotiations.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Did you ever consider pulling the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of south Lebanon?

[Netanyahu] Lebanon is a test case of Syrian intentions. Syria can undoubtedly control Hizballah and disarm it. Syria can veto Hizballah operations. The fact that they do not, indicates that they intend to use terror against us.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What about the idea of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal?

[Netanyahu] I will view Lebanese issues in light of Israel's and the IDF's security considerations. Syria must realize that we will not accept a situation in which we are constantly attacked by Hizballah as a self-evident. Also, Syria cannot serve as a basis for terror against others — Jordan or Turkey. This Syrian policy will encounter international opposition, which we will strive to create.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Your tone is different from what Foreign Minister David Levi said on 21 June.

[Netanyahu] This entire cabinet is against terror. The government positions are very clear; there is no contradiction.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Now that you are facing the burden imposed on you as prime minister, do you have second thoughts about the demands you made after you were elected to acquire more power?

[Netanyahu] You are making a fundamental mistake. My wish to assume power does not stem from my hunger for power; just the opposite is true: I want to have executive powers so I can decentralize government assets.

I am currently studying the liberalization and privatization processes of 10 countries. They are different, but they have one thing in common: In all of them, the head of state was strong enough to impose freeing up government-owned assets. Therefore, I introduced a clause into the coalition agreements that makes privatization a must. I want to get rid of power, not hold it.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do you support the decision by the governor of the Bank of Israel to raise interest rates by 1.5 percent?

[Netanyahu] I am a great believer in the independence of the governor, and I would rather not intervene in his decisions. We have a real problem with curbing inflation rate. I had a very good meeting with the finance minister, the bank governor, and their teams. We are unanimous: Excessive expenditures from the state budget must be cut down.

We received a very difficult inheritance: Last year, every last barrier was removed; inflation and the state debt are rising. At the same time, I am optimistic. I am a great believer in the potential of the Israeli economy.

Israel: Netanyahu Interviewed on Terrorism, Peace Process

TA2606162796 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Udi Segal; in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem "this morning" — recorded] txt}[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Segal] Mr. Prime Minister: There was a serious and unusual terror attack this morning near Na'aran. At this stage, do we know who was behind it and what exactly happened there?

[Netanyahu] It is not yet clear. The signs show that the squad came from Jordan. It is clear we are cooperating, as before, with the Jordanian Government in an attempt to prevent terror infiltrations or using Jordan as launching pad for attacks. We share that interest and we will double our joint efforts to thwart such terror attacks.

[Segal] Is Jordan doing enough to guard the border? Did you speak to King Husayn after the attack?

[Netanyahu] Not yet, but the channels are open and together we will examine the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of this type of incident. The problem of terror in general is directly threatening us, as we saw in today's tragic event, and Jordan. Jordan complained about Syrian acts and squads, and we are definitely feeling this on the Lebanese front from the Syrian side. Turkey has also made similar complaints. There are several centers of terror in the region which, I would say, operate and instigate various interim centers, with the main centers being Iran and, regrettably, Syria also behaves more and more like a terrorist state for all intents and purposes.

[Segal] Another center was in Saudi Arabia, with the attack against the U.S. troops. Do you believe, judging from information obtained so far, that Tehran is behind this attack?

[Netanyahu] I spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher immediately after the attack, and expressed the sympathy of all Israeli citizens: We know just how it feels to lose dozens of soldiers; we are familiar with the agony of the families. We also know that we have to cooperate in order to fight this malaise that is aimed not only against the countries in our region, as I have mentioned, but against the West and primarily the United States.

[Segal] You said yesterday that security is a precondition for progress in the negotiations. It is impossible to have terror and peace at the same time, you said. What exactly did you mean? Will every terror attack stop the political process? And if so, don't you feel this would serve those who want to stop the process, the terror organizations who maintain that the worse it is, the better?

[Netanyahu] This is an illusion. They used to say that in the face of the terror pressuring us to give away territory, we have to give more territory. The concept was that fighting terrorism entails surrendering to it in stages which, of course, leads to more attacks. I noticed that just three months ago, in the wake of the last wave of terror attacks, the previous government threatened to stop the political process. Only then did the Palestinian Authority [PA] partially, insufficiently, come to its senses, and only when a threat was issued to stop the political process, did the PA start some activity — again, partial and insufficient, but real — against terror elements inside its territory. This is why I completely reject the idea that we should go on with two supposedly separate channels: One called a peace channel — the political process; and the other a terror channel that goes on, and up and down. I do not accept this. The PA made commitments when it received authority over certain territories, and it is bound by them. We, naturally reserve the right of freedom of action according to circumstances. If they act, we won't have to; if they don't, we will.

[Segal] Before the elections, you said that 'Arafat is a subcontractor for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and that you do not want this state of affairs. Shin Bet head 'Ami Ayalon said that cooperation with the Palestinian security services is a significant element in Israel's ability to frustrate attacks today. What are the professional security elements telling you now? Have you been convinced yet that 'Arafat has a policy of operating against terror organizations, or did you realize that what you said before the elections is true and that he is cynically cooperating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Netanyahu] I am certain he can do more. He has not yet disarmed Hamas and many Hamas and Islamic Jihad men roam the land.

[Segal] Is this a precondition for the resumption of negotiations?

[Netanyahu] It will be the first issue we will discuss in the negotiations, for a simple reason: If you want to talk about real peace, it is impossible to have buses exploding and waves of horrendous terror that we will accept as a fact. I will not accept it as a fact. I was given a mandate by the public to bring peace with security. This is the only meaningful peace, and this is the peace that we mean to have with the PA.

I also want to make clear that I do not mean a temporary correction. I do not mean a situation in which the PA does what it should for three or six months, and then returns to the two-faced policy that made terror possible. I repeat: We want to see a fundamental and permanent change regarding terror, not some tactical cease-fire followed by a series of attacks against us. We will insist on this in the demands we will make to the other side and in rebuilding our ability to operate independently of other elements.

[Segal] Will your political aide Dore Gold meet 'Arafat?

[Netanyahu] I will open the channels I see fit, when I choose, in the appropriate way, and on various levels with the PA.

[Segal] Why hide the channels? They have existed so far. Is there a guiding idea behind the attempt to cloud the situation?

[Netanyahu] There will be formal channels. Officials, cabinet ministers, will hold meeting. At the same time, there will be unofficial contacts; some are being held now, and there will be more. I will not decide that we are disassociating ourselves from the PA. I intend to enter a real and candid dialogue with them, seek meeting points, points of agreement, for the benefit of both parties and peace. I am certain there will be many differences. We do not agree on the final goal. We also insist that security is a fundamental element of peace, but we cannot allow a situation in which a lack of agreement is because we misunderstand each other or because we do not talk to each other. We will talk, and I hope we will agree also.

[Segal] Did we detect the beginning of differences after the visit here by Christopher? I am saying this because the State Department spokesman firmly said last night that the United States believes that the formula of land for peace is the only one that can promote progress. Do you accept this formula?

[Netanyahu] I heard the secretary of state, who made several important remarks, which I heard with great satisfaction, during his visit here. First, he said that U.S.-Israeli cooperation will remain full and close, and that the U.S. policy on this issue does not depend on or link to any kind of preconditions. The second thing Mr. Christopher said was that he will not support issuing preconditions — not because the United States does not have a mouth with which to talk with the Arab countries, and not because the United States does not have its own views — which are often different from ours, which is natural and happens even among the closest family members. The statement that there are no preconditions or dictates in negotiations is correct. The way we made progress in Madrid, at Camp David, and in other talks — with Jordan, for example, and eventually with the Palestinians as well — is direct talks without preconditions. I believe that Mr. Christopher made it clear that this is an American principle, and this too is a very important clarification. I am very pleased with his visit here.

[Segal] Was the issue of settlements raised in you talks?

[Netanyahu] It was raised. I made it clear that we are forming our policy which, naturally, in no way contradicts our understanding and recognition of the right of the Jewish people to settle anywhere on its land. Every government will decide exactly where, when, and how it wants to realize its rights and so will we, in due time. [passage omitted]

Israel: 3 Soldiers Killed by 'Terrorists' on Jordanian Border

TA2606133896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1315 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were shot and killed by terrorists this morning near the Jordan River, not far from the settlement of Na'aran in the Jordan Valley. The soldiers were moving along the Jordan River bed on a routine patrol mission. Three soldiers were walking in front of a military vehicle, in which two other soldiers were riding. Suddenly there was heavy firing from an ambush. The terrorist squad apparently consisted of two or three men.

Two soldiers were killed in the first volley. A third soldier was wounded and died of his wounds shortly afterward. The two soldiers riding the command car got out and took cover in the bushes. The terrorists climbed into the vehicle and dismantled the machine gun. At that point another IDF patrol approached the scene. The terrorists spotted it, opened fire, and slightly wounded two other soldiers. The patrol returned fire and the terrorists fled back into the bushes near the river bed.

IDF troops arrived at the scene and began searching the bushes along the river. The terrorists apparently crossed the river and returned to Jordan. Searches are continuing.

Israel: Mordekhay Claims Jordanian Army Responsible for Border Incident

TA2606134496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1317 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay is holding the Jordanians responsible for this morning's incident in which three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed by terrorists. Our correspondent Gay Qotev spoke with him:

[Begin recording] [Qotev] The defense minister learned about the incident on the Jordanian border during a tour of the Central Command. Minister Mordekhay said clear responsibility for the incident lies with the Jordanian Army on the other side of the border.

[Mordekhay] Responsibility for any incident originating from any area lies with the country and entity from which the incident originated. We know that the Jordanian administration and Army make very great efforts to thwart terror against our territory from their territory. We will have to look into this incident. It is clear that we will fight terror — together with them and alone — in every way possible in order to foil and thwart it and to prevent it from hurting us and disturbing the relationship emerging between us and the Jordanians and between us and other elements in the Middle East.

[Qotev] The defense minister conferred with Major General 'Uzi Dayan, commander of the Central Command, and with Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i. At the end of the tour the commanders gave him of the Hebron area, Maj. Gen. Dayan left for the Jordan Valley. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu on Jordan Incident, Terror, Peace

TA2606170296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1405 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on 26 June; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, there was a terrorist attack today in the Jordan Valley and three soldiers were killed. What can we learn about the security situation and about Jordan's ability to cope with it?

[Netanyahu] This is a very serious incident. Of course, I send my condolences to the bereaved families and wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded. We are currently looking into the circumstances of the incident. Indications are that the squad came from inside Jordanian territory. We will make an intensive effort with the Jordanian Government to prevent the recurrence of similar attacks on us.

[Raz] Do we know the squad's identity, nature, and affiliation and the motives behind this specific incident?

[Netanyahu] Not yet. There have been incidents in the past when individual soldiers, usually with fundamentalist tendencies, crossed or tried to cross the Jordan River to hurt us, but we have no information yet about this specific squad.

[Raz] It seems to me that in the context of the relations with the Arab world, with Jordan we have a passionate romance.

[Netanyahu] Relations are good, genuine, and basic in the sense that, in my view, Jordan — certainly in the ruling circles — has undergone the revolution we have always yearned for. In other words, not a coerced acceptance of Israel for lack of any other choice or a tactical acceptance with a view to resuming the struggle in the future, but a real internalization of the essence and benefits of peace. This certainly creates a very important basis for the future. Jordan itself is the victim of terror attacks, and it made harsh accusations against Syria at the Cairo summit, as you know. Recently Turkey has also made serious accusations at Syria to the effect that Syria organizes indirect terrorist offensives against Turkey. Of course, we know that Hizballah's terror is actually conducted with Syrian permission. Therefore, we have several focal points of regional terror here. Iran is one of them, but Syria is increasingly using terror in a 360 degrees radius. We will have to act with international cooperation in order to exert political and, if necessary, economic pressure on Damascus to make them understand that it is not worth their while to tread this path.

[Raz] I will ask you about Syria later. Another target of very serious terrorist attacks has been Saudi Arabia, such as the terrible attack in Dhahran.

[Netanyahu] It is a regional scourge. In this case, too, we do not yet know the identity of the perpetrators. I phoned Secretary Christopher as soon as I heard the bitter news. I think there is no home in Israel that does not understand the pain now afflicting dozens of homes in the United States of the families of the victims. In this respect, but not only, we are true partners of the Americans. I intend to speak with President Clinton about practical steps we can take in cooperation with other countries in the region in order to repel, reduce, and ultimately suppress the scourge of terror which threatens all of us.

[Raz] You mentioned economic sanctions against Syria. Did this issue come up in the talks you held yesterday with Warren Christopher? Are there partners to such a far-reaching move against Syria?

[Netanyahu] I did not mention specific moves, I spoke about the need to make it clear to Damascus and the Syrian Government that we do not intend to play by Syria's rules. We do not intend to enable on the one hand peace talks which we are interested in, want to advance, and are prepared to advance, and on the other hand to sustain an indirect war of terror through Syria's proxies. Incidentally, this not only applies to Hizballah but also to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Islamic Jihad, all of which are headquartered in Damascus and all of which attack Israeli citizens inside Israeli territory. This is unacceptable to us, and it should be made clear that it will be translated in practice into a different Israeli policy which will try — and I am sure will succeed — to recruit important international elements to make it clear to Syria that this game is behind us and not in front of us.

[Raz] Beyond that, is there anything at all to discuss with the Syrians? After all, to the best of my knowledge, judging by a talk you held with Jordanian Prime Minister al-Kabariti it turns out that the Syrians even have misgivings about the Oslo agreements which are the basis of the entire political process at present.

[Netanyahu] I believe the basis of the entire political process is the Madrid conference. The fact is that Syria came to the Madrid conference and demanded the entire Golan as a precondition. We did not agree to preconditions then, just as we do not agree to preconditions today, but Syria came. Syria, just like the rest of the Arab world, is currently in the process of adjusting to the democratic reality in Israel. The people had their say and made their choice. There is now a government in Israel which is changing its priorities. We were elected to bring true peace, and true peace means peace that does not include terror, fear of getting on a bus, or a situation where our soldiers are killed on a daily basis. I clearly reiterate to the Syrians and to anybody else with whom we are engaged in a dialogue: It is either peace or terror but not both. We want peace, and we hope you also want it.

[Raz] You emphasize the Madrid conference in which you were a key protagonist. Are you trying to change the course of the Oslo agreements, retreat from them, or ignore them?

[Netanyahu] No. The Oslo agreements are a fact, the Oslo A and B agreements are a fact. I said in the election campaign that we recognize those facts. We are not necessarily happy with them, but we do not plan to backtrack on what has already been done. This is known.

Incidentally, I find myself in an awkward position where I have to explain to people that what I said before the elections I also mean after the elections. I hope this is a new, interesting, and refreshing norm in Israeli politics. We received a mandate to act in a specific way, and to the best of our ability — I don't know whether we will succeed on every single point — the course of our policy will be what we said before the elections. Of course, it will be adapted to the reality we will encounter.

[Raz] Would you like to convene an international forum along the lines of the Madrid conference?

[Netanyahu] I discussed the Madrid conference with Secretary Christopher in one clear context. I said we must negotiate with our Arab partners without preconditions, which is what characterized Madrid. There was a consensus that each side — or all sides, seeing as there were a few Arab sides versus Israel — would bring its position to the table and would not force the other side to accept a different position as a condition for the talks. I think this was wise and vital. I think it is particularly vital now, in view of the change of government, to reaffirm this principle. I noted with satisfaction that one of the points made by Secretary Christopher, both in the private talks and in his public statements here, was the total identification of the United States with this principle. Incidentally, I am not saying that we see eye to eye on everything with the United States. Disagreements happen in the closest of families, but one thing I can say: On this issue, as well as on others, there was full agreement. It is important that this message should be heard in all parts of the Middle East.

[Raz] Yesterday you made a slogan that is actually an extension of a policy line or the basis of your policy: either terror or peace, but not both.

[Netanyahu] That is correct.

[Raz] What do you mean? I will cite one man you have known for many years, Ehud Baraq, who has already expressed reservations about it and said it is an illusion.

[Netanyahu] I believe the illusion is to think we can go back to accept as a permanent fact in our life that every few months, at some point in the negotiations, murderous terrorist attacks will be staged against us from the Palestinian areas and that we will ignore them, impose a closure for two or three days or two to three weeks, then go back to business as usual. Not with us. We are not going back to that game.

[Raz] Doesn't this policy actually play into the hands of those fundamentalist elements who want to stop the political process? They will stage terrorist attacks, we will stop the political process, and we will have played into their hands.

[Netanyahu] I think this entire formula was an illusion to begin with. This was largely a double game. The Palestinian Authority [PA] talked about peace and did not conduct any attacks itself, except for the initial stages when Fatah men still engaged in them. However, there were organizations that the PA did not act against. I am not saying that it ordered their operations, but the PA definitely did not do anything against them. Every now and then they would stage murderous attacks which exacted a bloody toll from us. In fact, only three months ago, upon the onset on the latest wave of bombings, the outgoing government — even the outgoing government — said: This is it. We cannot advance the political process with this double game, and if terror continues there will be no political process; if these bombings and victims continue there will be no political process. Only then we saw a partial mobilization by the PA in an attempt to foil terrorist attacks. I would like to make it clear that I do not want to see it as something temporary or transitory, as a situation where they act and fulfill their commitments — in my opinion they have yet to do some things — for a period of three or six months and then they let up and permit terror as a means of pressure on us. We will simply not play in that court. [passage omitted]

Israel: U.S. Said 'Astonished' by Netanyahu's Extreme Positions

TA2606140896 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Ilana Baum]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Americans accompanying the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to Israel were astonished by the extreme positions Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu presented in his meeting with Christopher on the future of the negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians.

A U.S. source said: "We realized there is no difference between Netanyahu the candidate running for office and Netanyahu the prime minister." In a private talk last night Netanyahu said: "What did they think? That I would say the opposite of what I promised during the election campaign?" [passage omitted]

After the meeting between Netanyahu and Christopher it became clear that a special effort will be necessary to build confidence between Netanyahu's immediate circle and the U.S. peace team. Sources involved in the political contacts described the mood of the peace team members as "low" and "depressed." [passage omitted]

Israel: Netanyahu Says U.S. Not 'Astonished' at His Positions

TA2606193296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1745 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Nisim Mish'al in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 26 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mish'al] You talk about the method you are pursuing and the policy you presented to the public, and Christopher's entourage was astonished at your positions.

[Netanyahu] Christopher spoke to me this morning and told me he was astonished by the headlines about astonishment. We had several good talks, and we spoke until quite late at night and we reached many understandings and agreements. Of course, there are many issues....

[Mish'al, interrupting] On which issues did you reach understandings?

[Netanyahu] Many issues which we are still discussing. I don't think this is the time to lay bare all the issues. One thing is clear: We reached one basic understanding, which is that we must act in full cooperation and without conditions. In other words, if somebody thought that U.S.-Israeli relations depended on the execution of one policy and if the Israeli people chose a different government and a different policy relations would be severed and impaired, then this visit first and foremost made clear that Israel- U.S. relations are steadfast and continuing....

[Mish'al, interrupting] I want to understand you, Mr. Prime Minister. You actually made it clear to Secretary Christopher that all your pre-election promises in the political sphere will be your policy as prime minister?

[Netanyahu] Wait a minute, do you think that a person who promises something and violates it after he has been elected is taken lightly in the United States? This may be common practice in our part of the world, but it is unacceptable to me. It is also very clear to the Americans that as a rule one should aspire — to the best of one's ability, sometimes objective conditions preclude it — to act on the basis of the mandate received from the voters. I don't think there was any other expectation in the U.S. delegation. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 26 June carries another interview with Netanyahu by anchorpersons Ya'aqov Eylon and Micky Haimowitz recorded earlier today in the prime minister's bureau. Asked whether the Israeli army might return to areas it had evacuated if terror continues, Netanyahu replies: "We retain our operational option and our freedom of action."

[Asked to comment on Foreign Minister Levi's remarks that Israel would meet Syria halfway with regard to a territorial compromise, the prime minister replies: "I'm not sure that his remarks were not taken out of context. I don't think the issue is now on the agenda. The Syrians simply demand that we get off the Golan Heights, from which they attacked us time and again. Obviously, we have a different policy. I don't think this prevented us from meeting at the Madrid conference; each of us came with his own approach and concepts. We started negotiating, and I want to resume those negotiations with Syria. We have a series of issues to discuss with them. The Syrian interpretation cannot be forced on any Israeli government, definitely not on the government I head. We will sit and discuss. We want to enter a dialogue with them, and I hope this will happen soon."]

Israel: Adviser Gold To Meet 'Arafat Within 'Next Few Days'

TA2606142296 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Dore Gold, the prime minister's political adviser, will meet Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat within the next few days on behalf of Netanyahu.

The meeting will take place with the approval of the most senior political decisionmakers: Foreign Minister David Levi, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay, and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. Political sources estimated after the meeting yesterday between Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that a meeting between 'Arafat and Netanyahu "is not too far off."

Dr. Gold will present 'Arafat the new government's complaints about the PA's violations of the agreements signed with Israel: the political activity in Orient House in East Jerusalem, Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] incitement campaign, 'Arafat's refusal to disarm Hamas, and the failure to abrogate the Palestinian Charter.

Israel: Adviser Gold Holds 'Secret' Meeting With PA's 'Abbas

TA2606180896 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dore Gold, the prime minister's political adviser, secretly met in Jerusalem last Thursday [20 June] with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], the No. 2 man in the Palestinian Authority [PA]. This was learned by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen. In the first meeting between an official representative of the Netanyahu government and a PA representative, Gold made it clear to Abu-Mazin that an official meeting would be held soon between an Israeli Government minister and 'Arafat. Gold himself is also scheduled to meet with the PA chairman soon.

Israel: IDF To Help Palestinian Police Following 'Violent Clashes'

TA2606053996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Officials in the Central Command are concerned that growing tension between Palestinian police and West Bank Palestinians could lead to eruptions of violence against the Palestinian security forces. A number of violent clashes took place in recent weeks in villages in the Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem areas between Palestinian police and local residents, when the security forces tried to restore public order. In one clash near Ramallah, a youth was shot dead by Palestinian police.

The head of Central Command, Major General 'Uzi Dayan, has instructed IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces to post reinforcements nearby each time the Palestinian police enter villages in Area B to help restore order if necessary.

Israel: National Security Team To Conduct Long-Term Planning

TA2606135096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jun 96 p A3

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister's bureau will complete formulating the duties of the national security team headed by David 'Ivri in the coming days.

'Ivri presented proposals for the team's structure, objectives, and powers to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. According to his proposals, the team will consist of a small permanent staff and will coordinate a number of interministerial working groups representing the bodies dealing with foreign and security policy.

The team's main job will be to integrate and coordinate all the bodies, oversee staff work, and prepare material for the prime minister and for the meetings of the cabinet and the Ministerial Committee on Security affairs.

The team will coordinate the staff work pertaining to the peace process and the preparations of the prime minister's visits abroad. It will maintain working relations with similar bodies abroad, such as the White House's National Security Council.

The team will coordinate the assessments of all intelligence community arms (the army's Intelligence Branch, the Mosad, the Shin Bet, the Foreign Ministry) and will present an integrated intelligence evaluation.

In the security sphere, the team will engage in long-term planning which will take into account a broad series of economic, political, and social considerations, in addition to military- security ones. The team will thus help formulate national priorities in terms of the allocation of resources.

Also, the national security team will apparently coordinate the nuclear issue which is under the prime minister's jurisdiction.

Israel: Security Council Head Wants To Handle Peace Negotiations

TA2506132996 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p 6

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reserve Major General David 'Ivri, who has been appointed to head the National Security Council, recently submitted his proposal on how to form the Council and how it should operate.

The proposal, which was written by Yequti'el Mor, 'Ivri's assistant at the Defense Ministry, includes a recommendation that the Council be made up of a very limited number of members. Brigadier General Mor is among the candidates for the team. One of the important recommendations in the working paper 'Ivri presented to Binyamin Netanyahu is that the National Security Council be placed in charge of the negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians.

The proposal also suggests that the Council analyze the intelligence community's situation assessments and present them daily to Netanyahu. This, of course, without replacing the existing Defense Ministry analysis groups. In addition, the National Security Council will make recommendations to the inner cabinet on "burning" issues and long-range topics. The team will be headed by 'Ivri, who has served as the Defense Ministry's director general for the past ten years.

It is worth noting that no budget has yet been allocated for the new body and no decision has been made on the location of its offices. The prime minister has not yet had time to consider the matter.

Israel: Defense Minister Meets IDF Brass, Notes 'Policy Guidelines'

TA2506140296 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p A7

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay met with senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers and outlined his view of what the Defense Ministry's and IDF's policy guidelines should be.

Mordekhay addressed the following issues in detail: the peace process with the Palestinians, the Golan Heights, Lebanon, the defense budget, and the personal relations between him and the IDF brass.

As for the Golan Heights, the defense minister said that it was clear that the peace process with Syria should be continued; however, it was also obvious that there must be security on the Golan Heights.

Mordekhay said that he had personal experience and bitter memories of the Yom Kippur War. He asserted his determination to prepare the IDF for any contingency and to do everything possible to prevent it from being taken by surprise again.

The defense minister said that he supported a dialogue with the Palestinians and was in favor of upholding the agreements. Mordekhay added, however, that security interests must also be preserved. Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, the defense minister said that he would do everything in his power to deal with the problem of terrorism there.

Brigadier General Mikha'el Navon, the chief of staff's economic adviser, discussed the IDF's budgetary constraints. Navon said that there was "budgetary breakdown" and complained that the situation was serious. The defense minister replied that he was aware of the problem and would deal with it. Mordekhay said that he believed in team work and noted that the senior ranks of the IDF were manned by the best officers. He praised Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq.

Senior military sources said that in the near future, the defense minister's policy will focus on Lebanon, Hebron, and the war against terrorism. The sources added that Mordekhay's statements indicate that he will not intervene in the IDF's daily operations.

It is worth noting that the chief of staff has already made most of the IDF's senior appointments, and Mordekhay cannot cancel these for the time being. It is believed that Mordekhay will try to persuade Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to approve an additional budget for the IDF.

Israel: Defense Minister Assesses Situation in South Lebanon

TA2506160396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's new defense minister, Yitzhaq Mordekhay, says that if the Lebanese Government and those who stand behind it show independence and the ability to prevent terrorist activity, then Israel will be able to sit down and reach agreements regarding Lebanon. Otherwise, says Mordekhay, Israel will stay in the south Lebanese security zone as long as necessary to ensure security for the residents of northern Israel and for those whom he called our friends in south Lebanon. The defense minister was speaking during a first trip into the field to meet with Israeli soldiers and commanders in the security zone. Talking to reporters, Defense Minister Mordekhay said that the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath must be kept. If they are violated by the other side and there already have been some violations, then we shall consider what is the best way to act, he said. With the defense minister in south Lebanon was our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Ben-'Ami] Israel's new defense minister began his trip today with a call at the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command headquarters, where he himself had been in charge less than two years ago. There he received an update on developments and the overall situation in south Lebanon, as well as briefings on other issues from the current head of Northern Command, Major General 'Amiram Levin and other senior officers. After that, accompanied by Gen. Levin and the deputy chief of staff, Major General Matan Vilna'i, the defense minister was helicoptered to one of the IDF's outposts on the northern border of the security zone to meet with soldiers and area commanders. It was Nahal Brigade soldiers from that post who had been killed or wounded in a Hizballah ambush in the area earlier this month. After his meetings there, the defense minister arrived at the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] headquarters in Marj 'Uyun for a final round of briefings. Then he agreed to take some questions from reporters before setting off back to Israel.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] You are no stranger to this part of the world. You were here before as the head of Northern Command. Now you are Israel's defense minister. What do you see as the policy that needs to be implemented here? Do you anticipate changes compared to the policy of the previous government?

[Mordekhay] I find that our soldiers and our commanders are doing their best in order to give security and safeguard lives in the northern area of Israel and the southern area of Lebanon. Our policy will continue. As we have said many times, Lebanon and others that are supporting Hizballah are highly responsible for the situation in this area. We will continue to carry out our mission. To do everything necessary and possible for our soldiers, for the SLA here, for the people that are living here, and especially for the people of Israel, that it will be a safe place for everybody in this area. If some terrorist groups try to damage the life here, we will do everything to counterattack and to find their people, their soldiers, their headquarters, and to do everything that is necessary.

[Ben-'Ami] Will that include initiated and more aggressive action by the IDF outside, north of the security zone, against Hizballah or anyone else?

[Mordekhay] Well, let us think. Let us organize and do everything necessary. It is better to do than to speak too much.

[Ben-'Ami] The committee which was supposed to supervise the understandings after Operation Grapes of Wrath has still not been formed. The Syrians, the French, the Americans, the Israelis of course, and the Lebanese have not reached any agreements. Do you intend to come forward with any proposals of yourself. Do you see any way of getting this committee to work?

[Mordekhay] Well, I hope everyone who has signed this agreement will do their best to keep it in the right way. From my visit this time, it is my feeling that the other side does not respect the agreement they have signed in this area. Then, we will make an appreciation what is necessary to do in this situation. I hope that the other side will understand that we are continuing to carry on our mission to give ability to our forces, to the SLA forces, and to the people that are living on both sides of the boundary to be safe in this area. If there are some people, terrorist groups, that try to damage the lives and the situation, they will find that the Israeli troops and the Israeli Government will do everything necessary to cut down all the activity and to give a lesson to the other side that there is enough power and there is a different policy to carry on our mission in this area. [end recording]

Israel: Settlement Leader Proposes Power Transfer to Non-PA Body

TA2306114296 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jun 96 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Elyaqim Ha'etzni, member of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and one of the most prominent Qiryat Arba' figures, believes that since history cannot be reversed, "civilian powers should now be handed over to 'Arafat" in Hebron as well. Ha'etzni says, however, that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] should retain overall responsibility for security in all sectors of the city. In his opinion, traffic and criminal police powers should be handed over to a Hebronite Arab power unrelated to the Palestinian Authority [PA], and not to the PA itself.

Ha'etzni says that if 'Arafat rejects this kind of solution, which means that most of Hebron would become a yellow area (Area B) where Palestinians are to have civilian but not security powers, Israel can implement the solution unilaterally.

Ha'etzni maintains that even the Arabs of Hebron prefer this kind of solution, "because they fear 'Arafat's pirate rule. We the Jews of Hebron and Qiryat Arba' live here, and we hear of and witness tremendous, even surprising opposition among both rich and common local folk to 'Arafat's takeover of Hebron. A great deal of Hebron residents celebrated Netanyahu's victory, and I am not just talking. It can be checked with the governor.

"In my opinion, the governor has been receiving this kind of feedback far more than we have. A similar situation exists in East Jerusalem. There is great apprehension about Jibril al-Rujub's murderous methods." According to Ha'etzni, "people you would not believe have Israeli identity papers as insurance against 'Arafat's despotic regime. It is practically a Saddam Husayn regime.

"We have brought about the Saddam Husaynization of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and that is why the Arabs are so strongly opposed to it." Ha'etzni adds that, having promised every ultra-Orthodox and every Hasidic rabbi that Hebron would not be evacuated, "Netanyahu cannot act to the contrary. I cannot be as cynical as the media and say that, obviously, as soon as a politician comes to power he changes his spots and turns white into black. I think Netanyahu believes in some values, and the cynicism of the media and the reporters who say he is certain to do the opposite of what he promised the moment he comes to power is tendentious and designed to serve certain ends."

Israel: Qahalani Says Government Will Stop PA Activity in Jerusalem

TA2506161396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Public Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani says the new government will stop all Palestinian police activity in Jerusalem. The minister was talking with reporters while touring police stations in the eastern part of the city. For more on the minister's tour, over to Yishay Eldar.

[Eldar] Accompanied by Police Commander Asaf Hefetz and senior police officers, Public Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani said he was in East Jerusalem on his first official visit to study the area and see what is going on.

[Begin recording] [Qahalani] Jerusalem is part of Israel and we are visiting here a part of Israel. This area and the west for me is the same. We are going to serve the people here and if we need to open a new office we will do it, but we should take care about the people. They live in this area and the western area. It is the same in my opinion.

[Eldar] What do you intend to do about the Palestinian police and security activities in the city?

[Qahalani] We will take care about that. I think very soon they will disappear from this area.

[Eldar] Since the beginning of the intifadah, the city has been to all practical purposes divided as far as most of the Israeli population is concerned. How do you hope to overcome this?

[Qahalani] The reason that we build a new police station in this area is that we try to keep Jerusalem united and of course we will never give any chance to divide the city into two parts. [end recording]

[Eldar] Asked about Palestinian Authority [PA] activities at Orient House in East Jerusalem, Qahalani said the problem has not yet been solved but that it will be discussed in the government. The minister then made a brief walkabout in front of the Salah al-Din Street police station, talking in Hebrew with several East Jerusalem residents, all of whom expressed their hope for peace and wished him luck in his new post.

Israel: Commentary Views U.S. Reaction to Netanyahu Policies

TA2606152996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 96 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "America Also Believes in Promises"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The United States has been our mainstay for some 35 years, giving us money, arms, political backing, and in the past two decades, being a cosignatory to all the agreements we made with the Arabs. Not one Israeli politician deludes himself that we are independent and can do whatever we please. And it is not unusual for every elected prime minister to hasten to call on Clinton, as if he had to approve the prime minister's credentials.

Continued U.S. support is also very important to Netanyahu's success as prime minister. Therefore, I suppose he will one way or another fulfill the commitments signed by the previous government (and by Clinton), foremost the withdrawal from Hebron.

One can interpret the emasculation of the Likud in the Knesset committees and the scheme to keep Sharon from getting a key portfolio, even to the point of leaving him outside the government, as a signal to the United States that Netanyahu represents the center of the political map. Not exactly Shim'on Peres, but not Yitzhaq Shamir either.

With Christopher today and with Clinton on 9 July Netanyahu will try to win over America's heart; to convince the administration and Congress to embrace his concept of the need to change the emphases in the peace process, making progress in the process contingent on the state of security. Peres' approach that the peace process will solve the terror problem did not prove itself. His government fell, so believe Netanyahu's men, because the terror and bombings were incompatible with his lofty talk about the new Middle East. That is why Netanyahu wants to change the order around, making fulfillment of the commitments in the security area a condition for progress in the process.

He will try to convince Clinton that as long as there is terror most Israelis will not support concessions and compromises. The evacuation of Hebron, like the negotiations with Syria, must square with the commitments to halt terror. Netanyahu will argue before Clinton that Syria, which forced the Cairo summit to use threatening language in its resolutions, has so far done nothing to prevent the terror operating with its encouragement, from its territory, and with its assistance. The United States will be willing to listen to his perception of how the process must be pursued. It will be receptive to the question of security, personal security in particular, unless this proves to be an excuse to stop withdrawing and to expand settlements. To do good by the Arabs is also a U.S. interest.

The United States is opening a window of opportunity for Netanyahu. He will get the red-carpet treatment in Washington. The timing is good: both Dole and Clinton need him in the elections. He will address a joint session of two houses of Congress, a gesture accorded to few people in the world. It's not that they do not know who the man is and what the forces forming his parliamentary basis are, but Netanyahu's rise to power is a U.S.-style success story. The Americans like success stories, and they are willing to give him a great deal of credit and accept his promises and commitments literally, as long as they do not prove otherwise.

Who better than Netanyahu, who knows America and wishes it well, understands — or so we hope — that the United States is no different than all the frustrated Likudniks walking around with unfulfilled promises in their pockets. It does not like to feel cheated either.

Israel: Press Notes 'Conciliatory' Tone of Cairo Summit

TA2306103796

[FBIS Report] Hebrew-language Israeli press on 23 June carries several editorials and commentaries on the summit of Arab leaders in Cairo. Although the summit's resolutions are yet to be announced, the newspapers conclude almost unanimously that, contrary to expectations, no threat to Israel or the peace process is to be expected in the wake of the summit conference.

A 500-word commentary by Gay Bekhor on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, entitled: "The Defeat of the Radical Line in the Arab World," states: "If there is a single clear message emanating from the summit of Arab leaders in Cairo, it does not pertain to Israel or the United States, nor to Turkey and Iran, the two powerful neighbors. The message conveyed by the great majority of Arab leaders is: We do not want unnecessary upheavals or jolts. We want stability in the spheres of security and economy, and Israel has an important and representative place in that stability. That was why Damascus' call for setting terms for continued normalization with Israel was seen as anachronistic by most figures attending the conference, with the exception of the Syrian, Lebanese, and Libyan leaders. Most Arab countries represented in Cairo endorsed the line of cooperation with Israel reiterated by Egypt and Jordan; some did so verbally and others tacitly.

"In contrast with the Syrian hopes and with 'Arafat's declarations of intent to establish an independent Palestinian state, the conference's resolutions attest to a sense of responsibility. Host President Mubarak's conciliatory tone toward Israel also had its impact. In this context, Egypt and Jordan played a very important role, from Israel's viewpoint."

Bekhor adds: "The pan-Arab conventions have assumed a new countenance: Rather than being an essentially anti-Israeli bloc, they are a group of regional states facing similar problems and seeking to consult with each other. The era of hegemony and coercion are over in the Arab world. Egypt and Syria can no longer force anything on the Persian Gulf or North African states. In this sense, it reinforced the Israeli theory that it should negotiate with each Arab country separately. 'The closing of Arab ranks' does not contradict this theory.

"And yet there is one message conveyed by the Cairo summit to Israel. While it is true that most Middle East leaders would prefer to leave the status quo with Israel intact at the moment, should the political situation with the Palestinians or the security situation in Lebanon deteriorate, the Cairo summit is liable to become a structure that will confine the Arab leaders' maneuvering space. Having voiced solidarity with Lebanon and the Palestinians at the summit, they will have to reduce their ties with Israel in the event of a crisis, in the name of Arab unity."

The 600-word Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ editorial on page B1, entitled: "Netanyahu's Commitment," refers to "Mubarak's moderate speech" on peace as the Arabs' strategic choice, and states: "Making peace with Arab countries was Israel's strategic choice, too — one that is outside political controversy. This choice, however, requires practical implementation, as it cannot be expressed solely in conciliatory speeches or slogans. Netanyahu's commitment to the peace process lies, first and foremost, in the implementation of his promise to the citizens of Israel. It is also a commitment to the Arab partners who agreed to give the State of Israel credit by signing separate agreements with it on the understanding that these agreements will precede comprehensive peace. And there is a commitment to the world, and most notably to the United States, Israel's strategic support."

The 150-word editorial on page 3 of the HAYOM supplement of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV, entitled: "Pathetic Summit," states: "After President Mubarak's bellicosity was subdued by the Americans, the Arab summit in Cairo had nothing new to offer. Mubarak said in a conciliatory tone that 'the summit is not directed against Israel' and spoke of the need to close the Arab ranks. If President al-Asad had hopes that the Cairo conference would result in the freezing of the peace process, his hopes were dashed: The peace process advocates — most notably King Husayn — were a majority at the conference."

"Mubarak took advantage of this conference of 21 Arab countries, attended by 14 heads of state, to present himself as the leader of the Arab world. He even managed to arrange a meeting between al-Asad and Husayn and al-Asad and 'Arafat — quite a diplomatic feat. All in all, however, the sight of the Arab world leaders convening in haste because Israel had a new regime was pathetic."

The 500-word Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial on page 2, entitled: "The Doors of Peace Were Not Slammed Shut," states: "The leaders of 21 Arab states are holding a confused and unnecessary solidarity conference in Cairo," and although "it was convened to pressure the new Israeli prime minister, the one to find himself in the dock was Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad." The editorial further maintains: "The forced handshakes between leaders divided by fierce antagonism may have improved the mood, but did nothing to eradicate the roots of their enmity.

"Even the Palestinians' expectations from the conference were dashed, and for a good reason: The Palestinian Authority's partner in dialogue is in Jerusalem, not in Cairo or Tehran. Actually, the conference is about to conclude with very conciliatory resolutions. An adverse event has thus ended well, or at least, without harmful consequences.

"President Clinton's personal involvement, more than anything, contributed to the outcome of the Cairo conference, although Foreign Minister David Levi's studious, moderate remarks also made a contribution." The editorial concludes: "The doors of peace were not slammed shut either in Jerusalem or Cairo this past weekend."

Israel: Cairo Summit Said Not To 'Augur Well' for Negotiations

TA2406100796 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jun 96 p 6

[Editorial: "The Cairo Reality"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's repeatedly stating that the convening of the Cairo summit was not meant as a threat to Israel's new government, it is clear from the meeting's final communique that the Arab leaders have few olive branches to extend to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

While it would be naive to expect an Arab summit to call for anything less than a full Israeli withdrawal from the territories captured in the Six-Day War — a war, lest anyone need reminding, started by the Arabs and fueled by their determination to wipe Israel off the map — the communique also warned that if these maximalist territorial demands were not met, then "(this) would lead to a setback in the peace process, with all the dangers and repercussions that implies, taking the region back to the cycle of tension. The Arab states would be forced to reconsider the steps taken towards Israel in the framework of the peace process (and) the government of Israel alone would bear full responsibility."

The threatening tone of this statement does not augur well for serious negotiations between Israel and her Arab neighbors. A peace process needs partners who are committed to reaching a mutually satisfactory final goal; there can be no progress if one side sets down its toughest demands and insists on all or nothing.

Indeed, Mubarak might have been more reassuring as to the summit's intentions were it not for Egypt's own poor record on normalization with Israel. The term "cold peace" has become synonymous with the state of Israeli-Egyptian relations. Despite a steady flow of Israeli tourists to Egypt, few Egyptians have visited Israel. Trade and direct investment remain limited, and Egypt has worked strenuously to condemn and vilify Israel at various international forums. The one time that Mubarak set foot on Israeli soil, for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral, he took great pains to emphasize that it was not an official visit. If Mubarak truly wants to encourage Israel to believe that treaties with Arab regimes are worth undertaking and implementing, he can begin by improving his own record in this regard.

The summit's interference in Israel's relations with Turkey, in its call to Ankara to reconsider its military ties with Jerusalem, is also regrettable. The military agreement between the two countries, which allows Israel Air Force planes to conduct training exercises in Turkish airspace, does not endanger Arab security and should not merit a mention in an Arab summit communique.

It is also difficult to view certain other elements of the summit as anything but ironic. How can one take seriously the call to combat terrorism when many of the summit's participants are among the world's biggest bankrollers of political violence? The most active terrorist groups in the region, such as Hizballah and Islamic Jihad, receive Syrian support and encouragement. Libya remains a pariah state for its involvement in the bombing of the Pan Am flight over Lockerbie. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesmen continue to operate openly in Amman, the Jordanian capital, and Jordanian parliamentarians recently joined a clerical edict permitting suicide bomb attacks against Israelis.

The divisions in the Arab world were highlighted by the summit's attempt to foster an image of Arab unity. The non-invitation of Iraq pointed to the biggest schism facing the Arabs. Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad's meetings with Jordan's King Husayn, whose rule he has consistently attempted to undermine for over two decades, and with PA [Palestinian Authority] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who he had refused to see for over two-and-a-half years, served as an unintended reminder of the vast divisions that remain among three of Israel's most important neighbors. It was only last week that Jordanian spokesmen were threatening to reveal Syria's involvement in planned terror attacks in Jordan. And, as the U.S. State Department's recent report on terrorism noted, al-Asad harbors in Damascus some of the most violent Palestinian rejectionist groups, many of whom detest 'Arafat.

The summit should also serve as a clear reminder to the West of the archaic and inherently undemocratic nature of the Arab regimes. It is indeed rare in this age of democratic upheaval that the world is witness to such a gathering of sultans, emirs, monarchs and dictators, most of whose political systems are throwbacks to a bygone era. While numerous nondemocratic governments in Africa, eastern Europe, Asia, and South America have been swept aside in recent years, the Arab regimes remain the last great outpost of despotism in the modern world.

Jordan: King Phones Saudi King, Crown Prince on 'Terrorist Act'

JN2606175996 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn today phoned his brother His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to reassure himself of the situation in the wake of the terrorist act in al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia, in which many victims were killed.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his strong condemnation and denunciation of this hideous criminal act, reaffirming the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's support for the Saudi brothers in their efforts to confront all forms of terrorism, extremism, and crime. He also reaffirmed Jordan's concern about the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and the regional states. His majesty the king also presented his heartfelt condolences for the victims of the incident.

His Majesty King Husayn also phoned His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, to condemn and denounce the explosion. His majesty expressed his heartfelt condolences for the victims of this incident, reiterating Jordan's support for the Saudi brothers in the face of all kinds of terrorism.

Jordan: King Sends Condolences to Saudi Defense Minister, Clinton

JN2606184696 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, His Majesty King Husayn telephoned Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense, and offered his condolences on the victims of the criminal terrorist attack in al-Khubar. His majesty stressed Jordan's denunciation of these ugly acts, asserting Jordan's firm stand against all forms of terrorism.

Moreover, His Majesty King Husayn sent a cable to U.S. President Clinton, offering condolences on the victims of the terrorist attack. He stressed that Jordan continues to condemn all forms of terrorism.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Calls Saudi Defense Minister, Condemns Bombing

JN2606141896 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan asserted its support for the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and for its security and stability. It also emphasized its condemnation of all forms of terrorism and extremism, regardless of their source or whereabouts. This came in a telephone call between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, this morning. The prime minister expressed Jordan's condemnation of the criminal bombing incident in al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia, in which scores of people were killed and hundreds wounded.

The prime minister asserted that Saudi Arab is capable of confronting all attempts to tamper with or undermine the unity and stability of the fraternal people Saudi Arabia. He said that Saudi Arabia can support the sincere Arab efforts to combat terrorism, the first objective of which is to torpedo Arab solidarity.

His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz expressed his thanks and appreciation for Jordan's positions on Saudi Arabia.

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir Calls Saudi Bombing 'Criminal Incident'

JN2606173596 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] During the opening session of the 29th meeting of the Arab Information Ministers Council currently held in Cairo, Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir expressed Jordan's strong denunciation and condemnation of the criminal incident that occurred in al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia. Al-Mu'ashshir expressed the solidarity of the king, government, and people of Jordan with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir stressed the need for intensified and concentrated Arab action to confront and expose these criminal acts, which do not belong to our civilized world. He noted that reaction to such acts should not be confined to condemnation and denunciation. Al-Mu'ashshir stressed the importance of adopting a clear practical stand to confront terrorism, no matter which quarter is behind it, as part of an integrated approach, a true and effective framework, and a comprehensive vision of pan-Arab security. This is given that any act against any Arab country necessarily targets pan-Arab security.

In another development, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir met with the Saudi information minister. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir stressed Jordan's solidarity with and support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting any attempts to destabilize it. He expressed Jordan's strong condemnation of the criminal incident and the need to consolidate efforts and seek to confront all forms of terrorism.

The Saudi information minister thanked Jordan for its stand and solidarity with its brothers in Saudi Arabia. He also expressed his satisfaction with Jordan's proposal regarding the need to draw up practical stands to confront all sources and forms of terrorism. Moreover, the two sides discussed brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, issues of common interest, and the topics on the agenda of the Arab information ministers meeting.

Jordan: Source—Nothing Indicates Infiltrators Crossed From Jordan

JN2606113796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1110 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Israeli soldiers were killed and others wounded at dawn today when an armed group opened fire on them eight km north of Jericho near the border between Jordan and the West Bank. No details have been made available about this operation as the Israeli authorities did not detain any suspects.

As soon as Jordan was notified of this operation, the Jordanian Army conducted search operations in the central region of the Jordan Valley. However, nothing so far indicates that shootings or an infiltration took place from Jordanian territory.

A Jordanian source told our radio that there is nothing to indicate that any group infiltrated from Jordanian territory or returned to it. Therefore, the source said, all possibilities remain open, including the possibility that the operation was carried out from inside [the West Bank] away from the Jordanian territory.

Jordan: King Phones Netanyahu; Official Source Cited on Attack

JN2606173296 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Army announced that three Israeli soldiers were killed in the West Bank, near the border with Jordan, in an armed attack on their patrol. The Israeli Army immediately imposed a siege on the area, and helicopters overflew the scene. Meanwhile, journalists have not been allowed into the area.

An official Jordanian source said there is no evidence to prove that the armed group that killed three Israeli soldiers today was trying to infiltrate from Jordanian territory or retreated to it. The source added that Jordanian and Israeli soldiers continue joint search operations to find the armed group.

His Majesty King Husayn phoned Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to express his condolences for the victims of the incident in which Israeli soldiers were attacked by unknown persons.

Jordan: Senior Source Says Syria, Iran Behind Jordan Valley Attack

TA2706085796 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of yesterday's terrorist attack on the Israeli border, Major General Tahsin Shurdum, the Jordanian deputy chief of staff and head of army intelligence, told YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "There is terror, and we must join forces to act against it so that today's regrettable incident does not recur."

Gen. Shurdum added the members of the Jordanian commission of inquiry will be appointed this morning to look into the circumstances of the incident and ascertain the identity of the assassins.

"We are very sorry about the murder of the three soldiers and condemn the incident. King Husayn also denounced the terror yesterday. Our policy is to uphold our relations of peace with you, and we must work together to uproot terror.

"How do we prevent the recurrence of the kind of terror incidents we witnessed today? There must be good coordination between us — which we have — and we must exchange information. My immediate conclusion from the incident is that it could recur unless we manage to curb terror. We warned about the terror problem at the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and the Arab summit in Cairo. Terror will continue to strike unless we coordinate our action against it."

A senior Jordanian personality who asked to remain anonymous said yesterday in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT that Syria and Iran are responsible for the terrorist attack in the Jordan Valley. According to this personality, "the country — whose identity we know very well — that shields terrorist organizations and sends them to perpetrate attacks in order to destroy the peace should be punished."

The same personality did not hesitate to point to Damascus as the place from which the terrorists set out and from where the orders were issued to carry out the attack on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. "We have full details about the terrorist organizations in Damascus and the addresses of the terrorists, their identity card numbers, and even their car license plate numbers." According to this source, al-Asad sought to deal a blow both to Israel and Jordan with this attack. Al-Asad is furious with Jordan because of its warning about Syrian terror at the Cairo summit.

Jordan: King Addresses Graduates on Summit, Peace

JN2706055796 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1144 GMT 26 Jun 96

["Full recording" of address by King Husayn of Jordan at a graduation ceremony at the Command and Staff College in Amman on 26 June]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother graduate officers: God's peace and blessings be upon you. Arab, Hashemite greetings. You are always the subject of our pride. You are comrades in arms who never slacken in performing their duty and whose resolve never abates. [passage omitted]

Brother graduate officers: At the kind invitation of his excellency brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, we participated in the Arab summit conference in Cairo at the beginning of this week. His good, sincere efforts had a great positive role in making the summit a success. With the help of God, the summit will be a good start for renewed Arab meetings. Our presence at that summit reflected our conviction and firm faith in the unity of this nation and the need for work to eliminate all causes of division and alienation and to mobilize all energies and resources to propel our Arab nation forward, achieve integration among its peoples, enable it to build the future that it deserves, and to arrive at the status befitting its history and great cultural role. Our position in this summit was, as it has always been, principled, clear, and sincere. We support unifying the nation's views and stands on all crucial issues. We deal with all brothers honestly and with clear and open minds and hearts and clear vision. We are eager not to interfere in the domestic affairs of any sisterly country. If we talk about any issue concerning any sisterly country, we talk only out of concern for that country and to perform our duty toward its people, without having any ambition or ulterior motive. Just as we do not allow ourselves to interfere in the domestic affairs of others, we do not allow anybody to interfere in our affairs, question the sincerity of our stands and affiliation with our nation, or try to harm this homeland's security in any way whatsoever.

We stated at the summit that we support comprehensive, just, and lasting peace — peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. We also said that the peace process had made great strides toward a final settlement, and that this progress must continue and build on what was achieved through the commitment of all parties to the already-concluded agreements. All parties should continue efforts to build on peace on the basis of mutual trust and sincere desire and determination to reach full, comprehensive, and just peace which future generations will enjoy. Peace must be the optimal strategic choice of everybody.

As for fraternal Iraq, we sincerely wished circumstances had been appropriate for its attendance at the summit. We emphasized at the summit that we are looking forward to the day when we see fraternal Iraq overcome its tribulation, get rid of the causes of its suffering, and return to its natural Arab atmosphere enjoying unity and sovereignty over all its national soil, and when its deep-rooted people, who are dear to us all, enjoy democracy, freedom, and human rights.

The Cairo summit was the first Arab summit of that size after the Gulf war. The results were positive and promising, praise be to God. The summit provided the opportunity for holding several bilateral and tripartite meetings in which frank and open talks took place. These meetings will continue, God willing, until we are able to reach a situation in which Arab solidarity is realized as well as the aspired Arab integration, which the peoples of this nation seek.

Brother graduate officers: We in this homeland have something that is dear to us, and we have our own priorities and national constants from which we do not deviate. The first of these constants is maintaining our national unity, which is one of the pillars of the strength of this homeland. Furthermore, this national unity is the real embodiment of our belief in the principles and values that we inherited from the Great Arab Revolt, and our commitment to the values of tolerance, fraternity, and integration between all strata and communities of this society, based on the concept that real citizenship is through faith in this homeland and affiliation to it regardless of origin or any other considerations.

As for our democratic march — this blessed tree, whose roots are getting deeper, and which is growing on the pure Jordanian soil to become the ideal and example for all those who believe in freedom, human-rights, and dignity of people — it is chief among the issues that we are proud of and protect. We seek to enrich this democratic march through real practice that is based on the Constitution and the National Charter and which is committed to law and the higher national interest. It is our duty to stand firm in face of all those who try to exploit our tolerance and harm this march or use it to harm this country and undermine its sacrifices and achievements. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Denounces Saudi Arabia Bombing

NC2606162196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] About 19 people were killed and 386 hurt in an explosion that targeted an American base in Saudi Arabia last night. [passage omitted]

Official and religious Lebanese figures denounced the bombing, regretted the human loss, and said the security of Saudi Arabia is part of the security of the Muslim world. They stressed that stability and calm in every Arab and Muslim country is necessary to confront Zionist schemes. In this context Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri telephoned King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and denounced, in his name and on behalf of the Lebanese Government, the bombing in Dhahran. He expressed regret over the fall of the victims and the resulting destruction.

Lebanon: Buwayz on Arab Summit, Israeli Response

NC2606163696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jun 96

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents on 25 June; place not given — recorded;]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] To this day, the Israeli government's statement remains vague with regard to Israel's commitment to the peace process as endorsed in Madrid, which was the basis for negotiations. We are faced with a change in the mechanism and bases of the negotiations. The United States is trying to get Israel to return to its original stance. I also believe the Arab stand was reiterated at the Arab summit when it said that the Arabs are committed to the peace process on the bases of Madrid and they are ready to deal very seriously with it if there is a proposal to resume this process. But if what is intended is to review the bases or mechanism of the peace process, this means going backward five years. I do not really think that the Arab countries will accept this retrograde movement.

[Correspondent] Minister Buwayz, what is your reaction to the Israeli prime minister's and foreign minister's remarks that the Arab summit was a negative thing?

[Buwayz] Of course, anything that is contrary to complete capitulation is regarded as bad according to Israel's criteria. This summit's first message was the unity of Arab ranks. This unity of Arab ranks constitutes a backup for any peace decision. I believe any serious peace process will benefit from the unity of Arab ranks rather than from any split in our ranks or different stands. The summit's second message was that the Arabs are committed to the peace process as endorsed in Madrid and that there is no going back on it as far as they are concerned. But they are not committed to any different peace process proposed by the Israeli Government. I believe this stand could not be interpreted as negative at all. On the contrary, this summit confirmed the Arabs' commitment to the peace process despite the worrying signals coming from Israel.

The third point is that this summit sent a message on terrorism. The message said it was against terrorism and ready to take any action against terrorism, provided there is a differentiation between terrorism and legitimate resistance in the occupied territories. All parties who have good intentions will understand this message as it stands. I believe the summit atmosphere was reasonable and positive. But if some wanted it to be capitulationist so they could label it positive, well, it was not a summit of capitulation.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] What was said about the south is not measured by the number of words but by the clarity of the resolutions. The two paragraphs on the south touched very clearly on all aspects of the crisis and the Israeli occupation.

[Correspondent] But we were expecting the Arab countries themselves to participate in backing the south.

[Buwayz] That is a different issue. This summit was devoted to a discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict. There are Arab League resolutions very clearly supporting south Lebanon that are awaiting implementation.

Syria: Netanyahu's Policy Criticized; Pressure on Israel Urged

JN2606171596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher did not produce any positive results. Netanyahu's government maintains its hard-line stand on the peace process.

Following the talks with Christopher, Netanyahu said he preferred to resume the peace talks without any preconditions and, at the same time, he stressed what he called the right of Jews to settle anywhere on Israeli land. By the phrase without any preconditions, Netanyahu means talks outside of the rules of the peace process, including the Madrid formula and the UN Security Council's resolutions. By the land of Israel, he means all the occupied Arab territories—the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip.

These statements prompted the Egyptian foreign minister to say that Netanyahu is moving in the wrong direction and that his positions have increased Arab fears about the future of the peace process. It has been taken for granted that the peace process was originally based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; the land-for-peace principle; and a series of U.S. assurances that a just and comprehensive peace would be brought about in the Middle East. The Arabs entered the peace process and held negotiations with Israel not out of love for negotiations, but to regain their territories and rights and to bring about a just and firm peace.

Netanyahu's recent statements, as well as the statements he made during his election campaign, assert that Israel wants to disavow the peace process and to continue its expansionist and settlement schemes. Moreover, it is violating the existing accords, although they harm Palestinian rights. This hostile Israeli position persuaded hesitant Aabs of the need to convene an Arab summit to discuss all aspects of the recent developments in order to reach a unified position.

The Cairo summit actually produced positive results that were appreciated by the world and in peace-loving circles. The Cairo summit closed the Arab ranks, revived solidarity, and backed the cause of just and comprehensive peace by asking Israel for a total commitment to the bases of the Madrid conference, the Security Council's resolutions, and the principle of land for peace. The summit urged Israel's rulers to carry out a total withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, Jerusalem, and all the Palestinian territories, and to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The Cairo summit was not content with only stressing the principles of the peace process in accordance with what was agreed upon; it also warned Israel against reneging on them or their principles or tampering with them. The Cairo summit also did not rule out reconsidering all the accords signed with Israel or the steps taken toward it if it violates the bases of the peace process and refuses to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Contrary to allegations by Israel, which considers the results of the Arab summit to be negative and hostile, the world community, including influential parties like the United States, the EU, Russia, the PRC, India, and the nonaligned countries, has welcomed the Arab leaders' positive trend and their determination to seek a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Moreover, the EU member states sent a clear message to Israel to resume the peace talks in accordance with the principles of the Madrid conference and the land-for-peace formula. It also warned against reneging on these bases or violating the existing accords.

It is clear to every observer that the ball is now in Israel's court and that its rulers should declare a clear-cut policy that is committed to the peace process in letter and spirit. It is illogic for the peace process to achieve any progress while Netanyahu declares to the world that he is determined to retain the Golan and Jerusalem, not to withdraw from the West Bank, and to expand the settlement process throughout the occupied territories.

The Cairo summit sent a clear message to Israel and the world community. Israel will be certainly responsible for any reverse of the peace process. Similarly, the world community, particularly the American sponsor, should force Israel's rulers to fully respond to the principles of the peace process because the Middle East peace is badly needed by both the United States and the countries of the region.

Syria: Press Reviews Netanyahu Remarks, Cairo Summit Achievements

JN2606122696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "Israel's Fallacies," the newspaper TISHRIN reviews Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statements following the exploratory visit of the U.S. secretary of state to Israel. The paper says: Netanyahu said he is ready to continue negotiations with the Arabs without any preconditions, while asserting Israel's security requirements. These requirements, which Netanyahu frequently explained during his electoral campaign, are: Holding on to the Golan and Jerusalem, not withdrawing from the Palestinian and Lebanese land, and continuing settlement activity in all the Arab territories.

TISHRIN notes: Syria and the Arabs will not engage in negotiations for the sake of negotiations, just as they did not take part in the Madrid conference for the sake of participation. Rather, they took part in this conference on the basis of the foundations, principles, resolutions, commitments, and assurances, foremost of which is implementing the international legitimacy resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle. The entire peace process is governed by and proceeds from these resolutions.

TISHRIN asserts: The Cairo summit expressed the Arabs' genuine desire to achieve a solid, permanent, just, and comprehensive peace that will reflect positively on the countries of the region. If Israel does not reconsider its positions, meet the peace requirements, and respect the international efforts that were made, then it must shoulder full responsibility for the setback in the peace process.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Cairo summit embodied the will of the Arab nation and the aspirations of the Arab countries. In the same degree, it frustrated the hopes of the enemies and those who have ambitions in its land and resources. The summit championed the just demands of Syria and Lebanon to restore the Golan and southern Lebanon and emphasized the rights of the Palestinians to self- determination and an independent state. Thus, it frustrated the hopes of those who wagered on the continuation of the fragmentation of Arab ranks.

AL-THAWRAH, in a commentary entitled "Arab Clarity and Israel's Confusion," says: The Arab summit's resolutions and recommendations will continue to draw reactions from all over the world for a long time. This is due to the nature of these resolutions and recommendations, which shaped a unified strategic Arab view of the various developments, issues related to pan-Arab security, and the future of the Arab approach toward the peace process in light of the old and new Israeli challenges.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the summit rose to the level of the historic responsibility. It asserted the unified Arab position and strategic view of the means to advance the process of a just and comprehensive peace and bolster an international role that will be responsible for salvaging international legitimacy, Security Council resolutions, and the requirements of security and stability in the region.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The message of Arab peace was all the more clear. It opened the door for the progress of the peace process, contrary to the wishes of the Israeli officials, who were shocked by the Arab peace statement. The Arab's clarity made them more confused to the extent that they now only repeat the cliche of rejecting preconditions. In fact, they are the side that stipulates preconditions and places new obstacles.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The Arabs want peace, however, they reject surrender and adhere to the return of all their land and rights and the resolutions of international legitimacy. They reject the wrong Israeli concepts of settlement. So, will Israel reconsider the Arab position with a spirit other than the hostile one which rejects all the good intentions of Arabs toward a just and comprehensive peace, which remains in the interest of all?

In a commentary entitled "The Cairo Summit and Reviving Hope," AL-BA'TH says: The mere convening of the summit is an achievement and an important step toward the objective. The summit embodied the aspirations of the masses which almost lost confidence in the future. It saved the Arabs from falling into the abyss that was created to bury all sense of belonging to the homeland and nation.

AL-BA'TH says: At a time when the Israelis thought they had penetrated Arab walls, the Cairo summit was held to reiterate the constants that guarantee a just and comprehensive peace. While the Israelis thought that what they achieved will isolate the committed pan-Arab stand of Syria in the confrontation front, the summit proved that the Arabs, as usual, place the feelings of fraternity and belonging above all other considerations or parochial interests.

AL-BA'TH adds: As long as the new Israeli prime minister considers the occupied territories open to settlement activity and settlers and rejects the rights of Arabs and Muslims in Jerusalem and its holy places, the Arab nation cannot but face the challenge and reiterate its adherence to its rights that were enshrined in the Security Council's resolutions.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Cairo summit asserted that the Arabs abide by peace. It reaffirmed and warned against ignoring the conditions of this peace, which are represented in restoring the full Arab rights in the Golan, Palestine, and southern Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Former Opposition Leader Hekmatyar Sworn In as Prime Minister

BK2706014896 Hong Kong AFP in English 2019 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kabul, June 27 (AFP) - Former Afghan opposition leader and mojahedin fighter Golboddin Hekmatyar was late Wednesday [26 June] inaugurated as his country's new prime minister despite fierce rocket attacks during the day.

Hekmatyar, 50, swore the oath of allegiance to the Afghan state at a ceremony attended by about 500 guests in a once-plush Kabul hotel.

In a grim reminder that Afghanistan's four-year-old civil war is far from over, four rockets pounded the side of the hill on which the hotel is set as the Hezb-e-Eslami leader arrived to be sworn in. [passage omitted]

During the gathering, attended by Hekmatyar's former arch-foe, President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his top ministers, the new premier swore to protect Afghanistan's integrity and to fight problems such as the country's crippling poverty.

Hekmatyar said the unusual alliance between his party and the Rabbani government was based on principles of Muslim brotherhood.

"I have come to Kabul to share the destiny of the people of the city," he said in a speech.

Once an arch-enemy of Rabbani, Hekmatyar became prime minister under a May 24 peace deal which will also give his party the finance and defence ministries. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan: Senior Kabul Leaders Greet Hekmatyar, Attend Ceremony

LD2606180096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that esteemed Golboddin Hekmatyar arrived in Kabul from Laghman this afternoon. Esteemed Hekmatyar was received by Professor 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, the amir of Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union]; esteemed Enayatollah Shadab, secretary general of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society]; [names indistinct]; and hundreds of senior government officials and generals of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan.

The oath of office was administered in the presence of the president of Afghanistan and members of the High State Council at a hall in Kabul.

Engineer Hekmatyar arrived in Kabul under the terms of the agreement which was signed a month ago by the president of Afghanistan and the leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] in Mahipar [east of Kabul]. Esteemed Hekmatyar's assumption of the office of prime minister has encouraged most jihadi leaders to take part in the interim government. Only the Taleban group expressed their anger at this event by an unprecedented rocket attack on the city of Kabul, as a result of which 172 Kabul residents were martyred or injured. [passage indistinct]

He said that as of now there is no reason for the road leading from Kabul to the northern parts of the country to be closed by the High Coordination Council.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that the ruthless killing of Kabul residents by the Taleban on such a day is nothing but open hostility to our oppressed nation. [passage indistinct]

Afghanistan: Taleban Warns Diplomats To Stay Away From Swearing-In

LD2606150796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban have warned diplomats and foreign journalists in Afghanistan to stay away from Hekmatyar's swearing-in ceremony as prime minister of Afghanistan, and not to go to Kabul. A Taleban spokesman, Mawlawi Ahmad Jan, speaking in Peshawar, has also asked the people of Kabul city to stay at their homes on Wednesday. [26 June]

This warning has been issued because the Afghan Government has invited the ambassadors of all Islamic countries and senior officials of some countries and international organizations to attend Hekmatyar's swearing-in ceremony in Kabul.

Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Attacks Kill, Injure 172 in Kabul

LD2606175496 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the city of Kabul was the target of savage rocket attacks by the Taleban group, leaving 172 people dead or injured.

BAKHTAR reports that most crowded areas — houses, a school, and a hospital — were hit. The barrage of rockets started around 1000 and continued into this evening.

The first barrage of rockets hit the fourth and tenth residential areas, and areas in the west of Kabul, causing heavy loss of life and material.

At midday, dozens of rockets landed on [word indistinct] which is the most crowded point of Kabul city. A number of rockets landed on Darolaman and university bus stops, Bagh-e Omumi bus depot, Ayesha-e Durani school, Wazir Akbar Khan hospital, the Spinzar Hotel, and other crowded areas. Schoolchildren, university students, and the general public were the victims of these attacks. [Passage indistinct] The most tragic case occurred in Pol-e Bagh-e Omumi's bus depot at Darolaman bus stop. A rocket hit a taxi, setting it on fire. In this incident, 26 people were killed and a number were injured.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Hasina Briefs Diplomats on Government's Foreign Policy

BK2706095696 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 25 Jun 96 p 1 and 12

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government will give special importance to strengthening relations with all neighbours — particularly the closest ones, report agencies.

Addressing the heads of diplomatic missions and international agencies at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city, she said Bangladesh will seek to reinforce the relationship with the neighbours, both bilaterally and through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Hasina said the essence of her country's foreign policy would be economic diplomacy geared to the transformation of Bangladesh as it enters the next millennium.

Every effort would be given to boost exports and employment abroad of the nationals, she said.

"One of the prime objectives of our foreign policy will be to enhance the image of the country abroad," Hasina said, adding that her government would seek help to make Bangladesh especially attractive to foreign investors. Hasina said her government would continue to follow the same friendly relations with all countries, without malice to any.

"We shall strive to further strengthen and deepen existing relations and cooperation with all countries, not only bilaterally but through our interaction in the multilateral and international fora."

The Prime Minister said her government should continue to play a constructive and forward-looking role in the UN, the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], the Commonwealth, the NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and all organisations Bangladesh is deeply and firmly committed to.

While doing so "we should seek to maintain a continuity in foreign relations, based on a broad consensus reflecting the will and aspirations of the entire nation."

She told the diplomats that her government would give special importance to strengthening relations with all neighbours, particularly their closest neighbours. The Prime Minister said her government would also seek resolution of all outstanding problems through negotiations which would be addressed with firmness in safeguarding vital national interests. The spirit, however, would be amicable and mutual understanding.

Hasina hoped that all would render support to her during the tenure of her office and for her government in carrying out the difficult tasks of national reconciliation and nationbuilding.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury Kaiser, Principal Secretary Syed Ahmed and Secretary to the PM [Prime Minister] Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir were present during the meeting.

India

India: Defense Ministry, Military Chiefs Said Behind CTBT Rejection

BK2606161396 Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Jun 96 p 6

[Report by Atul Aneja]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in its present form has been the result of extensive consultations in which the Defence Ministry has played a key role.

The Ministry has also provided substantial inputs on the technical aspects of the CTBT, highly-placed sources here said.

"There have been intensive discussions on the CTBT in various Defence Ministry forums including the Chiefs of Staff Committee. The three service chiefs are also fully behind last Thursday's [20 June] rejection. There is a consensus in the Ministry that the present draft of the treaty is unacceptable", the sources said.

According to sources, the Defence Minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav is fully in the picture and is actively involved in the brainstorming exercise. "The Minister has shown a remarkable capacity to grasp the complexity of the issue" the sources added.

The Defence Ministry is closely involved in assessing the technical aspects of test verifications, such as satellite-based surveillance, on-site inspections and seismic monitoring. These issues have already influenced India's decision on the draft treaty. New Delhi has pointed out that the unequal development of National Technical Means (NTM) has given the developed world a big advantage over the rest, in obtaining verification related satellite pictures.

For instance, the western Integrated Operational Detection System (ONDS) aboard the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites is designed to detect the characteristic double flash of light from above ground nuclear tests anywhere in the world. Even the most technically advanced countries in the developing world are years away from acquiring such sophistication.

Satellites can also be used to pick up underground test preparations. The drilling equipment required to prepare underground tests, can be easily detected by satellites. Sometimes, even surface changes triggered by the test can be "seen" from space.

CTBT negotiators want India to participate in a new global seismic network, required to detect a low yield test, down to one kilo ton. [Kt] Existing seismic networks and other national technical means of verification can pick up explosive yields of tests only above 10 Kt.

Strengthening the seismic networking is also required to detect test evasion. For instance, test signals can be concealed within the aftershocks of an earthquake, if detonations takes place within seconds of a suitable earthquake. Highly sophisticated means are required to separate earthquake signals from atomic explosions.

According to sources, the Defence Ministry is involved in evaluating the technical aspects of on-site inspections. Timely on-site inspections are underground tests generate radioactive gases at extremely high temperatures and pressures. But, some of the radioactivity invariably escapes into the atmosphere through seepage. Detection is possible through timely ground sampling or aerial monitoring. On-site inspections may also be required to sample small amounts of specific gases produced by underground tests. These can be detected at close range by exploiting their light-scattering properties when illuminated by lasers.

India Threatens Withdrawal of Seismic Monitoring if Linked to CTBT

BK2606151096 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Jun 96 p 9

[Report by Prakash Nanda]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has threatened to withdraw the existing facilities for the international community to monitor the seismic activities in the region if these activities relate to the verification measures of the proposed CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] being negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. India's permanent representative at Geneva Ms Arundhati Ghose, told her fellow negotiators about this on Monday [24 June] in "a close-door meeting," it has been reliably learnt.

Since 1984, India has been a part of an independent multilateral initiative called "Gestt" which monitors the seismic technologies of the 37 members of the Committee on Disarmament. And as per its association with the Gestt which operates on voluntary basis, India has offered one primary monitoring station at Gauribidanaur in Karnataka and two auxiliary sites at Allahabad and Dehra Dun.

Officials in the ministry of external affairs (MEA) are resenting the move on the pan of the five declared nuclear weapons powers, otherwise known as P-5, to establish a linkage between India and the proposed CTBT draft which New Delhi is not going to endorse. "This is like including a player in the team even after that player has declared himself unavailable for the selection," said a senior Indian diplomat.

According to the linkage-plan of the P-5, all the Gestt members will be automatic participants of the International Monitoring System (IMS), which, according to the proposed CTBT, will be in charge of the CTBT's verification. However, "since we are not going to be a party to the proposed CTBT, there is no way we will be contributing to the International Monitoring System," said a MEA official.

"Perhaps, enough attention has not been paid to the verification aspect of the entry-into-force (EIF) provision of the CTBT, which, in turn, has serious security implications for the country," another MEA official pointed out. The EIF provision, according to him, is highly intrusive in the sense that it legitimises what are called the National Technical Means (TMS) of the P-5 countries by which the IMS will give credence to the findings of the private verification systems of a country.

"If, the American satellites, for instance, discover that India is going to explode a bomb, then the ISI [inter-service intelligence] cannot dismiss it, even though its own information does not suggest any such thing. Consequently, on-site inspections may be recommended. Nothing can be more intrusive than this. The EIF provision of the CTBT only facilitates the intelligence gathering of the P-5 countries. In fact, this is another important reason why we will not endorse the proposed CTBT," said a South Block source.

India has already clarified the doubts over the EIF provision of the proposed CTBT. It does not buy the argument that without its participation, or for that matter any other nuclear capable country's participation, the CTBT is meaningless. Foreign secretary Salman Haider said on Monday that though India would not endorse a treaty that did not take into account its concerns, "others are welcome to go ahead with it."

India: Russian Delegate—Delhi CTBT Position 'Unacceptable'

BK2606153096 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 26 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Chitra Subramaniam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RUSSIA said it finds India's position on CTBT "unacceptable" and categorically added that it would "not let India off."

"If India withdraws from the IMS, [International Monitoring System] it will lead to a chain reaction. Pakistan will follow and then China and the entire global coverage of the IMS will fall — we simply cannot have a situation where India does not sign the CTBT," Russian ambassador and chief negotiator Grigori Berdennikov told The Indian Express in an exclusive interview.

India said yesterday it would withdraw its International Monitoring System facilities (seismic stations and laboratories) if their presence in a country obliges that country to sign the CTBT. India has five such facilities and is one of 37 countries with IMS stations.

The Indian Express has also learnt that Russia has made moves in New Delhi suggesting that it will blame India for failure if the CTBT talks "fail" in Geneva.

Berdennikov spoke to this newspaper minutes before Pakistan told the CD [Conference on Disarmament] India's opposition to the current treaty text is a "death knell" for the CTBT in addition to raising the "nuclear spectre in South Asia." In a remarkable change of tone and tack, Akram said his country was concerned "that this precipitate denunciation of the test ban treaty may imply the possibility of the conduct of further nuclear tests in South Asia" a possibility to which his country could not remain sanguine.

"Nor can those who desire an early and effective CTBT ignore this threat," he said in what was widely seen as an effort, backed by Russia and China, to blame India for possible failure. Pakistan said in a climb-down from its earlier position that the CTBT was far from perfect in its present form but was better than no treaty at all.

The negotiators also heard Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alatas who said he was "dismayed" by the nuclear weapons states"...which, despite their claim to being the guardians of global non-proliferation, fail to reflect a genuine non-proliferation policy" in the treaty's basic obligations.

Echoing India almost word-for-word, Alatas said, "It would seem that the maintenance of their individual and strategic postures as well as their status as nuclear weapons states has taken precedence over their commitment to total abstention from nuclear weapons tests."

The negotiations have been thrown into a tailspin on the essential question of how many ratification's are needed for the CTBT to take effect. Russia, China, and Pakistan are pushing for eight ratifications — the nuclear five US, UK, Russia, China and France as well as threshold states India, Pakistan and Israel — without which they say the treaty cannot become effective.

Akram said those who want the treaty to come into force... "with or without these eight states ignore fundamental strategic and political realities."

Russia rejected all of India's demands saying instead that "...India has already got a lot." He said New Delhi had done a "volte face" on scope by first agreeing to a treaty that bans explosive tests and then turning around to ask for the abolition of non-explosive tests — an interpretation vehemently denied by the Indian delegation which said its position has remained unchanged.

"They (India) come with something new everyday at this late state. Let it be clear — Russia will not accept a CTBT without India," Berdennikov said.

Jaap Ramaker, the Dutch chairman of the talks said yesterday he had failed to make a breakthrough on the numbers issue and urged countries to find a solution. In his text presented last month, Ramakar had retained the 37 IMS stations countries formula.

Diplomats say Chinese, Pakistani and Russian insistence on India is a reflection of regional realities as well as the constraints stemming from various open and clandestine nuclear exchange programmes some of these states are locked in.

The Pakistani ambassador in Geneva called on the CD to find "constructive compromises" to meet New

Delhi halfway in its demand that the pact contain a commitment by the nuclear five to eliminate their weapons within a specific time-frame. Pakistan also backed off on its earlier insistence on banning sub-critical tests by saying" a ban on nuclear explosions is better than no ban at all." Diplomats said Pakistan was saying outside the P-5 what China and Russia were saying within — get India.

A senior Western negotiator playing a key role said Pakistan was in a very "unenviable cannot spit, cannot swallow" situation. "It cannot take pressure as India can and it cannot take the CTBT as it stands and without India — what a predicament."

Pakistan told the CD if India's decision to stay out is not "reversed it could spell the death knell of the treaty. This is no exaggeration."

The entry-into-force (EIF) which is "CTBTese" for conditions under which the new treaty will take effect is turning into what one negotiator said was a "veritable nightmare" and the battle of numbers is expected to go down the wire.

The dilemma is to make sure that all the relevant states would be on board before a treaty enters into force and on the other hand to find a formula that none of these countries could ever block the entry-into-force.

India: Pakistan's Akram Says Delhi Decision 'Death Knell' of CTBT

BK2606154296 Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by C. Raja Mohan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Denouncing India's rejection of a global ban on nuclear testing, Pakistan said such a treaty without New Delhi's participation will be "dead on arrival". In a hard-hitting speech to the Conference on Disarmament here that is hoping to finalise the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] this week, Ambassador Munir Akram of Pakistan declared on Tuesday [25 June] that if India does not reverse its decision, it could sound "the death knell" of the treaty.

A tough Pakistani response to the Indian decision not to sign the CTBT was widely expected here. Observers of the negotiations, however, note that while expressing its unhappiness at the Indian decision, Islamabad has not revealed any particular course of action it proposes to adopt. Despite the strong words he chose, Ambassador Akram stopped short of announcing a formal decision by Pakistan that it will not sign the CTBT in the wake of India's rejection of the treaty in its present form.

Ambassador Akram cites two reasons for not saying "no" to the treaty. "One, we feel that a ban on nuclear explosions is better than no ban at all". Such a ban, according to him, "will contribute significantly to nuclear non-proliferation" in South Asia.

Pakistan is said to be under considerable pressure from the United States to join the CTBT, irrespective of India's decision. During her visit to Islamabad last April, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel, suggested publicly that Pakistan should not tie its position on the CTBT to that of India.

Pakistan today strongly rejected efforts by some countries to explore formulas that will help bring a CTBT into force without India. Ambassador Akram said they ignore "fundamental strategic and political realities". Pakistan reiterated the demand that the five declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — and the three threshold countries — India, Pakistan and Israel — must be part of the test ban treaty to make it truly comprehensive.

"To those who live in the real world", Mr. Akram warned, "if one of those states is out of the Treaty, all of them will be out". Proposals to have a CTBT without India, Mr. Akram said, do "shift the political responsibility for holding up the Treaty from those who do not accept it to those who are prepared to accept it."

The insistence of Pakistan along with China, Russia, and Britain that the treaty should not enter into force without India's signature remains the biggest stumbling block to the efforts here to conclude a CTBT.

Asserting that India's decision has "cast a long shadow over the CTBT", Ambassador Akram used the occasion to revive international concerns about a nuclear test by India. In a reference to what he called a "nuclear spectre in South Asia", Mr. Akram said India's rejection of the CTBT "may imply the possibility of the conduct of further nuclear tests in the subcontinent". Media reports from the United States alleged a few months ago that India and Pakistan were both making preparations to conduct nuclear tests.

Mr. Akram's posture on the CTBT revealed the traditional duality in the Pakistani policy-of demanding global non-discriminatory arms control, but a readiness to accept unequal agreements if only India does.

Ambassador Akram lashed out at the limitations of the CTBT in its present form, but he was willing to embrace a less than satisfactory CTBT because it serves the objective of nuclear non-proliferation in the subcontinent.

Reflecting a broad set of concerns on the treaty that it shares with India, Pakistan attacked the nuclear weapons powers for not agreeing to end all nuclear tests and proceeding with plans to conduct subcritical nuclear testing. Ambassador Akram criticised the nuclear powers for not providing commitments in the CTBT to halt the "qualitative development of nuclear weapons" and promote nuclear disarmament and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons "with or without a time-bound framework".

Like other non-aligned countries, Pakistan warned against the dangers of misuse of special inspections and the use of national intelligence to trigger such inspections. Ambassador Akram was unhappy that the real negotiations were going on among the P-5 behind the backs of other delegations. "Indeed, most members of the Conference have become spectators to a drama played out among the five nuclear powers", Mr. Akram regretted.

But after a comprehensive critique of the CTBT, Ambassador Akram changed tack. Citing the benefits of the CTBT, he declared that "for Pakistan, halting further proliferation of nuclear weapons capabilities in South Asia is an important objective". He said "a test ban treaty accepted by both Pakistan and India will fulfil the objective of the bilateral test ban treaty we had formally proposed to India in June 1987".

Asking the Conference to "pause and consider" the means of coping with "the challenge to the CTBT" posed by India, Ambassador Akram offered full cooperation of his delegation to conclude the negotiations by June 28.

In another development at the Conference on Disarmament on Tuesday, Mr. Ali Alatas, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia suggested a way of getting round the current difficulties over "entry-into-force" of the CTBT. Recalling Indonesian' preference for a simple numerical approach without reference to any particular group of countries, Mr. Alatas said his country would be open to an alternative mechanism "outside the framework of the Treaty but linked to it". Under the proposal, the five nuclear powers "may adopt a solemn declaration not to engage in the further, qualitative improvement of their nuclear weapons". Such a statement it is hoped would convince India to join the CTBT.

India: Foreign Minister Interviewed on Pakistan, U.S. Ties

BK2606152596 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 30 Jun 96 p 77

[Interview with Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral by Raj Chengappa, INDIA TODAY senior editor, during the week of 17 June; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Chengappa] What is your reaction to Pakistan's supposedly friendly overtures to the United Front Government?

[Gujral] Our reaction has been positive. We have said we are willing to have a dialogue on any question Pakistan wants.

[Chengappa] Including Kashmir?

[Gujral] Including Kashmir and anything else they want to discuss. Dialogue doesn't mean I'm willing to compromise my chastity. Our unity and integrity are not negotiable.

[Chengappa] Why did talks break down with Pakistan in the recent past?

[Gujral] Basically because Pakistan took this attitude that Kashmir or nothing. So we had nothing. Now I am keeping my fingers crossed that the nothing line is not their line this time.

[Chengappa] How sincere is Pakistan this time rounds

[Gujral] If there is one thing I have learnt it is that there is no thermometer or barometer available in the world to check one's sincerity. Only when you taste the pudding you would have the proof.

[Chengappa] How best can we go about improving relations with Pakistan?

[Gujral] One model to follow is the Indo-China one in which, although we have some contentious issues to be settled, it does not prevent us from having relations on anything else. Let the differences persist but on other issues we can open up. Ultimately when issues like trade and travel improve we can even sort out the pertinent issues in a more tranquil atmosphere. The suspicions are less and the intentions are not doubted.

[Chengappa] What is going to be the thrust of your foreign policy?

[Gujral] I am strong believer in regional cooperation. I believe that the concept of region must expand. I feel that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] must have Burma, Afghanistan and the induction of Central Asian countries. Only then will you have a vast market and resources available to build a huge economy in this region. With the Indian economy being the largest in the region, I am willing to have asymmetrical relationships. I am willing to give more than I take. The central shift from my predecessors will be that I am not an advocate of quid pro quo. I believe that larger nations must have larger hearts also.

[Chengappa] What about India's relations with the US?

[Gujral] I can assure that our vision of a relationship with America is positive. We are not egoists but we have our self-pride as a nation. So therefore those who care for being our friends must respect our dignity.

[Chengappa] There has been mounting pressure to toe its line on issues such as missiles and intellectual property rights?

[Gujral] It is for them to decide on what issues to "press". The only thing I can say is that we have two legs and we will stand firmly on them. We will not make friends with anybody on our knees.

[Chengappa] The US has also been pressuring us to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty without any conditions attached. How will you handle the issue?

[Gujral] I am not going to prove that I am a very good wrestler. Nor am I going to show the strength of my muscles. My national security demands that I reserve our nuclear options. We will not sign unless I am satisfied that if I give up my option the rest would follow. What we have been trying to do is to make the blessed treaty credible. We want to give it some flesh, some teeth so that we really eliminate nuclear weapons.

[Chengappa] Are we going to see an improvement in our relations with Russia?

[Gujral] Yes. yes. More intensive economic relations-apart from transfer of technology-with Russia are on the cards. Not for building a rival to anybody. That cold war perception is over. It will not be like that if I go East than I can't go West. I'll go both places.

[Chengappa] Your critics say you have a soft corner for Russia because of your long stint as ambassador to the former soviet Union in the '70s?

[Gujral] I have no soft corners for anyone. Since the cold war psyche is over, why should we have only a Hindu marriage?

[Chengappa] There is concern that with the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] being a major constituent in your Front, our relations with Sri Lanka may alter?

[Gujral] It is not going to affect our relations. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was not built by the DMK. I will not name who built it but those people are sitting in Delhi. So why should we confuse things? If something happens in Pakistan should we regard a Punjabi in India as not reliable?

India: Gowda To Deal 'Cautiously' With Kashmir Autonomy

BK2706022096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that the government will tackle the issue of granting more autonomy to Kashmir cautiously. Replying to questions posed by newsmen at Bangalore airport his evening, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda said that the government is fully aware of the issue. He reiterated that the union cabinet is being expanded on Friday. [28 June]

Referring to the issue of dissidents in Janata Dal in Karnataka, the prime minister said that the state chief minister, Mr. J.H. Patel, and the party president of the state unit, Mr. C. M. Ibrahim, will sort out the problems. A rousing reception was given to the prime minister when he arrived at the (?HAL) airport in Bangalore today.

India: Chief Minister Rules Out Army Withdrawal From Assam

BK2506112896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Praful Kumar Mahanta, has ruled out the withdrawal of the Army till a peaceful atmosphere is restored in the state. In a statement in Guwahati, he referred to the demands of some organizations for withdrawal of Army and said once violence ends in the state the presence of the Army will no longer be necessary. The chief minister's statement was issued yesterday on his return from New Delhi.

Mr. Mahanta appealed to all militant organizations to immediately stop killings, kidnappings, and extortions to create a congenial atmosphere. He said his government is ready to negotiate with the militants to solve the problems of the state. Mr. Mahanta has expressed his government's determination to thwart what he called the conspiracy to destabilize his government, which started with a series of violent incidents, including ethnic riots in Khokhrajar and Bongaigaon districts, killing of a senior journalist, and violent incidents on Assam-Nagaland border.

Iran

Iran Claims Israel-U.S. 'Strengthen' Regional Mistrust

LD2606173396 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a joint meeting, Weizman, the president of the Zionist regime, and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of involvement in the Dhahran explosion.

Responding to the accusations, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman today called Weizman and Christopher two ringleaders and supporters of state terrorism, and rejected their accusations against Iran.

Mr. Mahmud Mohammadi said America and the Zionist regime are busy hatching a joint plot aimed at damaging the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Blaming Iran for such actions has roots in America's and Israel's joint hostility against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we strongly reject any kind of involvement in the Dhahran explosion.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: It seems that suspicious efforts are under way to strengthen the climate of mistrust in the region, aimed at paving the way for expanding the Zionist regime's influence in the region's political, economic, and security structures. We hope that regional countries will vigilantly block the destructive policies of America and Israel, aimed at creating rifts among Islamic and Arab countries in the region.

Iran: Commentary Says Israel May Have Planted Dhahran Bomb

LD2706082896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0347 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Station commentary: "Saudi Bomb Could Have Been Planted by Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At least 20 people were killed and about 350 were injured in an explosion at a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia. It was the second explosion in eight months at U.S. military centers in Saudi Arabia.

Five U.S. servicemen were killed in the latest explosion, which took place last Aban [month beginning 23 October]. The perpetrators of the last explosion said the purpose of their action was to protest the presence of U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia.

After arresting the bombers, Saudi Arabia executed four of them last Khordad [month beginning 21 May]. During their trial, the group's supporters threatened to launch more attacks against U.S. bases in their country. Saudi Arabia regarded that threat as an attempt to influence the trial of the arrested four and did not take it seriously.

The perpetrators of the recent explosion at the U.S. military base have not yet been identified and no group has thus far accepted responsibility for it. But the Zionist regime's officials hurriedly attributed it to groups supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran. U.S. Secretary of State Christopher followed suit and repeated the stance of the Zionist regime.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has rejected the remarks made by U.S. and Zionist regime officials, declaring that their stance is in line with their extensive efforts to ruin Iran's reputation and sabotage the relations between the countries in the region, and saying that it stems from their hostility toward Iran.

Iran has adopted a policy of cooperation with regional countries, and is trying, by easing tension in the region, to increase regional cooperation. The United States and the Zionist regime are trying to frustrate that policy. For that reason, they seize every opportunity to try to sabotage relations between Iran and other countries in the region.

The record of the United States and the Zionist regime clearly shows that they have constantly resorted to assassination to advance their goal. Therefore, some analysts regard their haste in blaming Iran for the explosion in Saudi Arabia as an attempt to exonerate themselves, because as the search for the possible perpetrators of the recent attack on the U.S. military base continues, there are indications that the Zionist regime's agents may have been involved in such incidents with the aim of creating tension in the region.

Iran: U.S. May 'Quietly Back Down' on Initial Stance on Iran

LD2606102196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following extensive international opposition to the recent bill approved by the U.S. Congress, imposing sanctions on the business partners of Iran and Libya, it seems as if the U.S. Administration will quietly back down from its initial stance. The White House has announced that, if the United States' European allies have substitute proposals for the U.S. sanctions bill against Iran and Libya, Washington is ready to study them.

The economic adviser of the U.S. President, who announced this decision, himself added that it seemed unlikely that European countries will suggest any alternative proposals for sanctions against Iran and Libya, but, if they did, the U.S. Administration will examine them carefully.

In the opinion of political analysts, the adoption of this stance is another sign of the White House's confusion and short-sightedness in terms of foreign policy. Until now, U.S. officials were speaking of the idea of the Clinton government imposing sanctions on the business partners of Iran and Libya as a definite decision. However, it seems as if the fierce international reactions, which have occurred even before the bill has received final approval, and threats from European countries that they will take retaliatory measures against the United States have driven the White House to reconsider its hostile diplomacy, and they have served as a warning to U.S. officials that they should move very slowly.

Although, as was said earlier, the measure passed by the U.S. Congress recently has not received final approval and the international reactions to the violation of world trade regulations by the United States have not taken on a practical form, nevertheless, by taking this step, Washington is, in practice, placing itself in international isolation, because, despite the existence of economic interdependence between many countries of the world and the United States, big and independent countries are not prepared to buckle under pressure. This is a fact that has been pointed out, in a variety of ways, by the officials of various countries and even by close allies of the United States, including Britain.

It seems as if Mr. Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, has now received the reply to his own question, posed last year when announcing his country's imposition of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Christopher said at the time that the cooperation or lack of cooperation of other countries with the United States regarding sanctions against Iran would show whether the U.S. would be able to take on the leadership of the world or not.

Iran: Clinton's New Iranian Stance Said Demonstration of 'Defeat'

LD2606193896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1703 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few days, U.S. President Bill Clinton has adopted new stances with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran which are believed by many experts to be a demonstration of Washington's defeat in enforcing trade sanctions against Iran. On the one hand, the U.S. Administration, in a tactical retreat, has called on European countries to offer alternative proposals to sanctions against Iran's trade partners, saying Washington is ready to study them. This White House stance by itself demonstrates that the United States has failed in enforcing its interventionist policies concerning Iran, and, following explicit and extensive global opposition, is trying to turn Europe back from its path — that is opposing and confronting secondary sanctions by America — by political niceties.

Obviously, European countries will not turn back from their present policy, namely constructive dialogue with Iran, which they have stressed time and again. If America wants to accept proposals by these countries, it must review the basis of its policies, that is imposing sanctions against Iran.

On the other hand, in parallel with the announcement of the new stance vis-a-vis the European governments, Clinton has called for talks between the two countries. Experts believe that these two White House stances can be assessed alongside each other and, thereby, prove complementary. However, the truth is that the U.S. foreign policy regarding regional issues and its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran have not changed, and the invitation to talks by America, alongside the pursuance and the intensification of hostile policies vis-a-vis Iran, is an effort resorted to by Washington under present circumstances, leading that country's authorities to contradict themselves and take reactive measures.

Of course, America's problems with various countries in the world, including European countries, do not end with Iran. Washington is facing these countries' opposition in imposing sanctions against Cuba's and Libya's trade partners; so much so that, in the case of Cuba, after adopting the sanctions, America faced threats of retaliation by the EU, Mexico, and Canada. That is why it seems that right now the sanctions policy has come to a sensitive and decisive stage in relations between America and those countries which have faced the White House with difficulties.

Therefore, Washington embarked on this reactive diplomacy for fear that increased opposition at the threshold of the G-7 summit might affect that body's decisions and undermine relations between America and the other six industrialized countries. America thus prevents its own international isolation, resulting from greed and interventionist policies.

Iran: Nateq-Nuri on U.S. Move Against Companies Dealing With Iran

LD2506125696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Majles Speaker has described the measure approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on punishing companies that do business with Iran in the oil sector as a futile effort aimed at pleasing Zionist circles. Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri, who was speaking at today's open Majles session, explained: God's grace, the wise advice of the eminent leader [Khamene'i] to formulate precise plans to reduce dependence on oil, and the efforts made by our country's people and officials, have made us invulnerable to such threats and have created the capacity for our oil industry to be an exporter of manpower and technical services.

The Majles speaker referred to the opposition shown by [various] countries to the policies of the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran and noted: The United States has still not understood that the days of threats and embargoes are over, and this lack of comprehension of realities by U.S. statesmen and their efforts to please the Zionists will be an eternal disgrace for the United States in history.

Iran: Deputy Foreign Minister—U.S. 'Dishonest' in Stand on Iran

LD2506124996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy foreign minister for research and education affairs, Mr. 'Abbas Maleki, has described the U.S. President Bill Clinton's willingness to establish relations between Tehran and Washington as unrealistic, saying the U.S. Administration has been dishonest in this regard.

In a press interview this morning in the presence of foreign and local reporters in Tehran, Mr. Maleki stressed that U.S. enmity and hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran has not finished yet, adding that the U.S. measure is carrying out [as heard] following the Senate failure in approving a new bill intensifying Washington's economic sanctions against Tehran.

Mr. Maleki underlined that the U.S. economic embargo against Iran has had no impact on Tehran's economy and U.S. expansionist and hostile policies have failed due to the strong opposition of leaders of many world countries including the leaders of the European Union, the speaker of Washington and international circles. [as heard]

Iran: Commentary Views Christopher's Continued Mideast Agenda

LD2606170896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Unattributed station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Foreign Secretary Warren Christopher arrived in Cairo, Egypt, on Wednesday. [26 June] Christopher has met and conferred with ranking Egyptian officials, including the country's president, Husni Mubarak, over advancing the so-called Middle East peace process.

Right-wing Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's victory has brought the so-called Middle East process face to face with serious problems. Political observers regard the U.S. foreign secretary's visit to the area an effort to resume the so-called Middle East peace talks between the Arabs and the Zionist regime. Earlier, Christopher had discussed the compromise process with the new Zionist prime minister in the occupied lands.

Netanyahu, rejecting the land for peace formula, has brought about unsuitable conditions in the region, especially among Arab countries. An emphasis over non-evacuation of the Golan Heights, southern Sudan [as heard], and opposition to the formation of an independent Palestinian government, along with the rejection of all talks over eastern Bayt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem], which contradicts the Oslo peace accord, have all poured fuel over the already burning flames.

In light of such hardline views and the Zionist regime's avaricious stance, political observers set no hope in U.S. foreign secretary's efforts. The White House, dispatching its foreign secretary to the area, pursues another goal. In view of the upcoming presidential elections in November, Clinton is doing his best to give momentum to the so-called Middle East peace process, so as to somehow consolidate his shaky position. The issues of importance in safeguarding Zionist security has been accepted as a main priority among U.S. political circles. It is because of this that Clinton, at such a sensitive juncture, is attempting to resume the so-called Mideast peace process so as to make use of the issue as a propaganda ploy, putting him in a superior position compared to his rivals.

At any rate, failed U.S. efforts to bring the Labor party leader, Shim'on Peres, to power, and Netanyahu's victory in the elections have created some obstacles in the way of the Middle East peace process. Political experts view the vain efforts made by the U.S. foreign secretary to encourage the Arabs and Zionists to resume the peace process as mere attempts to boost Clinton's image, which has suffered blows since the renewed surfacing of the Whitewater scandal.

Iran: Commentary Calls Christopher Visit Campaign Tactic

LD2506194296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Jerusalem today. This is his first visit since the extremist Likud party came to power. His objective is to hold talks with the leaders of the Zionist regime, Egypt, and the PLO in order to bring closer the viewpoints of the Zionists and the Arabs.

The visit is taking place at a time when the resolution of the Arab summit has provided an option for the Zionist regime's leaders. Their option is either to continue the peace process or prepare themselves for future crises. However, Tel Aviv's harsh response in the wake of the resolution has created a nightmare for the Americans. That is, they fear that a new era of cold war may start between the Zionists and the Arab front, leading to the total collapse of the peace process.

America itself is preparing for the presidential elections in the coming months. Warren Christopher's visit in these circumstances demonstrates that the Democrats are terrified of the failure of their regional strategy. They were hoping that the peace process would prepare a particular politico-economic climate for the lasting presence of the Americans in the Middle East. Such a presence would have strengthened the U.S. position against other global powers.

Warren Christopher will try to persuade the two sides of the compromise plan to continue their talks even if there is no hope of achieving much, because total collapse of the talks will be a disgrace for the ruling Democratic Party on the eve of the presidential elections.

Iran: IRNA Cites Pelletreau on EU's 'Critical Dialogue' With Iran

LD2506133296 Tehran IRNA in English 1308 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, June 25, IRNA — U.S. assistant secretary of state, Robert Pelletreau has maintained for the first time that the Clinton Administration is not against the European Union's 'critical dialogue' with Iran. Appearing to concede strong EU opposition to U.S. threats to force its sanctions policy on its allies, he said that Washington must recognise "if America is to lead, we must have followers."

What the U.S. needed was "to tailor our diplomatic and legislative strategy to ensure that we do not damage our own economic and political interests more than we hurt Iran," the assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs said.

His comments follow repeated EU warnings of retaliatory measures if the U.S. proceeds with an extraterritorial bill aimed at punishing foreign firms trading with Iran. American business leaders have also criticised sanctions as self-defeating.

Giving evidence to the house international relations committee earlier this month, Pelletreau said U.S. sought to focus international pressure aimed at changing aspects of Iranian policies, which the Clinton Administration had deep objections to.

He said securing the cooperation of allies was important to Washington's strategy, but accepted that European states had not joined its unilateral trade embargo against Iran.

But contrary to provisional figures that show Iran more than doubling its trade surplus with the EU last year, the assistant secretary maintained that European countries had "substantially reduced the pace and volume of their commercial relations."

After failing to change the EU's policy towards Iran, he said that the U.S. was not opposed to the 'critical dialogue' favored by the Europeans even although it had been admittedly unsuccessful in changing Iranian behavior. Instead, Pelletreau said, the U.S. has urged the EU to challenge what he described as Iran's continued engagement in unacceptable behavior with some form of pressure, he did not specify.

According to an abridged version of his testimony, published by ENERGY COMPASS, he made no mention of U.S. policy to contain or isolate Iran, emphasizing more on seeking an economic strategy tailored not to damage American interests more than Iran.

Iran: U.S. 'Defeated' by French Firm's Activities in Persian Gulf

LD2506110896 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — A senior Oil Ministry official said the U.S. was practically defeated in its aims when the French oil firm 'Total SA' started activities to develop the Sirri A and E marine oil fields.

In an exclusive interview with the Persian daily 'IRAN' printed Tuesday, [25 June] the director for offshore production of the Oil Ministry, Seyyed Ismail Jalilian said that Total commenced its drilling activities in the area last week.

He added that immediately following the signing of the contract, the French firm, as of last July, initiated executive activities for conducting three-dimensional seismographic surveys and seabed exploration to identify areas where pipelines should pass and the sites where drilling and operating rigs should be installed.

Total practically began its activities at the Sirri E oil field last June, after transferring the horizontal drilling mast to the oil fields in the Persian Gulf, he told the paper.

Within the next two weeks, the winner in the bid for the construction of marine rigs would be announced, he added, reporting that the project was offered for international tender jointly with Total.

Drilling operations for 70 wells at the Sirri A and E fields would also be subject to tender in the future, and then drilling operations would begin, Jalilian said.

He assured that the projects for developing Sirri A and E were advancing according to schedule and no major hitches had been encountered so far.

About 120,000 barrels of oil would be produced daily following the completion of these ventures and it is expected that the two oil fields would be operational within two years.

At present, 500,000 barrels of oil per day are being produced by the offshore areas, up by 180,000 barrels a day compared to two years ago. The official said the amount is to reach one million barrels daily in the future.

Turning to the rehabilitation of operating rigs and other installations damaged during the 1980-88 imposed war, he disclosed that reconstruction and renovation of the drilling rigs began following the end of the war. Repair work is hoped to be completed in the next two years.

He concluded by saying the number of drilling rigs in Persian Gulf oil fields would reach nine by the end of the current Iranian year, March 20, 1997.

Iran: Daily on Netanyahu's 'Aggressive' Policies

NC2706070796 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Jun 96 p 12

[Commentary by Ahmad Hasani: "A Glance at the Troublemaking Programs of the Zionist Regime's New Government"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 13 new policies of Binyamin Netanyahu, the new prime minister of the Zionists have been announced. Even though political observers consider the two parties of occupied Palestine, that is Labor and Likud, as having the same principles and bases there are certain differences.

Some believe that the new regime's coming into power is neither to the benefit of the Arabs or those who favor the compromise. It does not benefit Clinton himself, whose efforts for maintaining the compromise between the Arabs and Israel have encountered defeat, or the autonomous government of 'Arafat, which is only halfway toward realizing an independent Palestinian state on Jordan's West Bank, Gaza, and Jericho even though its establishment was scheduled for five years after the 1994 accord.

The various clauses of Netanyahu's announced policies begin with a softer tone, for the proponents of the peace trend, and from the fourth clause onwards this mild tone changes into a military march reminiscent of the blatantly expansionist policies of Tel Aviv in 1946 and 1980. [passage omitted]

The new program is considered a policy of aggression toward Syria and Lebanon. These two countries, which had coordinated their policies with one another and displayed joint reactions on the compromise talks, will now face other problems.

Ostensibly, the commonly used phrase that the Western media has been using to describe the situation (that is, back to square one) now applies to Syria. The Golan Heights issue that had been considered a settled issue in the Damascus-Tel Aviv talks to a great extent, has now reared its head again. Earlier Syria had insisted on swift evacuation of Israeli forces from the Golan Heights, but Rabin and Peres had suggested a gradual and phased withdrawal.

Now Netanyahu has expressed his sensitivity on the issue of the Golan Heights in the three programs he announced:

1. Settlements on the Golan Heights, Jordan's West Bank, and the Gaza Strip are of national importance.
2. It is of vital importance to retain the Golan Heights for Israel's security and its water resources.
3. Signing an accord with Syria on the basis of the preservation of Israel's supremacy over the Golan Heights!

Even for Lebanon, an aggressive policy has been envisaged. We are aware that the "Grapes of Wrath" operations, formulated by Peres with the objective of the suppression of Hezbollah, culminated in the signing of the April accord, in which both sides agreed to refrain from attacks on civilians. In the new accord, Netanyahu clearly insisted that he reserves the right to use all security and military capabilities against what he deems terrorism. [passage omitted]

The official announcement of the new programs of the Zionist regime, on the threshold of the Arab summit session, can be construed as an aggressive reaction and psychologically pits the Arabs against an action that has already taken place. It appears that it has now become necessary for them to review their reactionary policy on the issue of the compromise. They should now seek new ways and means to reach a compromise and to combat domineering expansionism, so that they can reflect on ultimately eliminating their longstanding enemy.

Iran: 'Return to Islamic Principles' Said Only Way To End Bahrain Crisis

LD2606154896 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Jun 96 pp 14, 16

[Article by Professor Hamid Mulana: "Bahrain Trapped by Crisis, What Is the Way Out ?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the past few years, civil unrest has engulfed Bahrain and is acquiring a greater dimension every day. However, political crisis is nothing new in this island. For over a century Bahrain has been trapped by British imperialism, as it is now by the United States, and this process has been carried out with the assistance of its own rulers.

We can say that problems and internal issues related to the crisis have two main points: the crisis of government legitimacy and, secondly, the crisis of identity. The question is whether Bahrain wants to free itself from the trap. What is the way out? [passage omitted]

The United States has had naval bases in Bahrain and Oman for many years, however the new agreement [the agreement signed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait] allows the United States to enter these countries' ports at any time, freely and without any advance notice.

In the past few years the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf have increased to 24,000 soldiers, 26 destroyers and vessels and over 150 bomber aircraft, of which around 80 are permanently based in the bases in Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain has now turned into a center of the U.S. Fifth Fleet in the Persian Gulf and into a look out for the movement of military and naval forces of countries in the Persian Gulf.

The Persian Gulf war and further deployment of the U.S. military forces in the region have had extraordinary political and cultural effects on Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain as well and have caused the expansion of Islamism and mobilization of popular groups demanding political changes and participation in decision-making. We should find the root of the Bahraini crisis within this framework and in the following historic political changes. [passage omitted]

At the moment extensive suppression, the lack of respect for human rights, and the arrest of hundreds of government opponents have contributed further to the crisis of political legitimacy in Bahrain. Moreover, we should seek the root of the Bahraini identity crisis in the economic and cultural development programs and their lack of conformity with the Islamic society in the country. In many cases, up until now, Bahrain has been propelled [by its rulers] in a direction of imitating the West and the Western type of nationalism. It disregarded sensitive cultural and economic necessities in the past two decades in view of the emergence of Islamism in the region and the appearance of the Islamic revolution. On the contrary, under the shadow of wars, Lebanon's conflict and the Iraqi imposed war against Iran, Bahrain has been transformed into a recreation park in the Middle East, a commercial center for multinational companies and a tourist destination favored by the United States and Europe. In conclusion we can say that many contradictions have been created between the Bahraini Islamic image and its so-called modern image.

Within that context one could cite various examples. About three years ago, the Bahraini government placed a four-page advertisement in WASHINGTON POST on the occasion of Bahrain's national day (16 December 1992), which reported at length and advertised the modernization and progress made in Bahrain's economy, banking system and industries, including the inception of an American missionary hospital. One of the advertisements by the ministry of information and the tourist office, which was a quarter of a page long, showed a semi-naked man and woman clad in swim suits and holding drinking glasses. It read: For business or leisure you should be in Bahrain. Of course, Bahrain's Islamic identity was overlooked in the advertisement and it was only stressed that Bahrain was not lagging behind the forerunners of modernization, that is Europe and America. The picture depicted Bahrain like California and Florida and the contrast between it and a photograph of Bahrain shaykhs on the next page was hilarious even to American readers. Bahrain, with a population of half a million and huge oil revenues, is considered a relatively prosperous country reliant on foreign and non-Bahraini workers. But the number of British workers employed on the island in 1980 was more than those employed from Arab countries like Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, and so forth. Bahrain's telecommunications infrastructure and its connection with Europe and America have turned it into a strategic Western center in the Persian Gulf. Four percent of shares in Bahrain's telecommunication company are owned by British telecommunication companies. Therefore, Bahrain has been turned into a big banking and financial centre for America and Europe in the Middle East.

However, in any case, the political, economic and cultural developments in Bahrain have reached a stage where the country cannot disregard, or be indifferent to, the political and Islamic atmosphere in the Persian Gulf region. Due to the cultural and historical ties between Iran and Bahrain and the future role of both countries in the region, the rulers of Manama need to study closely and independently Iran's proposals. Bahrain should not become a rich Haiti in the Persian Gulf. The only way to end Bahrain's internal problems and crises lies in the participation of the people in decision-making and Bahrain's return to Islamic principles and culture and its participation in security, economic, and cultural pacts in the Persian Gulf region.

Iran: Reasons Behind Bahrain Unrest Analyzed

NC2706085796 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Jun 96 p 8

[Commentary by M. Bahraini: "Behind the Scenes of the Events in Bahrain"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to reports that have been disseminated, a Bahrain Government official has accused the Islamic Republic of Iran for involvement in a coup d'etat in that country. The report states that nearly 20 Bahrainis have been arrested for the attempt to topple the al-Khalifah clan.

The above political news display was staged by Bahraini officials at a time when the Arabs are preparing to coordinate their stances, with the new changes in the Zionist organizations in the occupied territories. It would be preferable if — for a logical analysis of the events in Bahrain — we were to provide an introduction on this diminutive island on the shores of the southern Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Bahrain procures its budget needs from other countries, including Saudi Arabia (nearly $1 billion). Corruption and mismanagement are some of the reasons for the lack of balance between the budget's income and expenditure. In view of the historical links between Iran and Bahrain, even now a large number of the people and citizens of Bahrain do not consider themselves as different or separate from the people and government of Iran.

However, this is something that the backward al-Khalifah government also agrees with on occasion, at the recommendation of the Americans. Hence, all the regions and sections of people in the Persian Gulf reminisce on their past religious bonds with those across the sea. The export of oil from Bahraini ports is approximately 100,000 barrels per day at the moment.

There is no doubt in the minds of experts and observers in the region that the false charade rigged up by Bahrain has no solid basis, and that any intent by extraneous groups for staging an armed coup d'etat in a country that is under the occupation of numerous warships and bases seems rather illogical.

The fact is that the Bahraini Government has been unable to resolve the recent 18-month long crisis. The popular uprising in that country, which has engulfed all its cities and villages of this small port, has raised a question on the basis and legitimacy of the ruling government. This government has not only been under constant attack from its people, it has also been deemed inept by other countries as well. Sultan Qabus, the ruler of Oman had stated recently in a Saudi newspaper that Bahrain's problems are entirely internal.

The American Government's radio supported the Bahraini Government's reaction, accusing Iran and attributed it to our sensitivity on the triumphant presence of the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and the region. In order to remind our readers, one may stress that in the course of the incidents in the past 18 months in Bahrain, all American military and civilian personnel have been strictly forbidden from moving freely on the streets and public places in Bahrain. They only come out at night and return to their homes before dawn.

The American radio refers to this situation as its triumphant presence in the region!

Another point is the Western media's reference to the roots of Islamic fundamentalism in the region, which are constantly ascribed to poverty and the economic conditions of those who protest against the dictatorship and avarice of arbitrary governments. This is even though the per capita income in Bahrain is nearly $12,000 annually, which refutes the above mentioned theories and analyses as being completely erroneous.

In the course of the popular uprising in Bahrain, the demand for basic and political freedoms, a free elected parliament, power-sharing on the basis of popular will, and finally, the removal of the corrupt system and of foreign dependence, are the priorities of their slogans. Islamic slogans are being inscribed on the walls of cities and small villages in Bahrain, which accuse the government of corruption and destroying the country.

The current situation in Bahrain is entering a critical phase. Earlier, this port had been transformed into a financial, banking, and recreational center by the Westerners. Now, with the surfacing of unrest, the investors have transferred their assets out of the country and into other banking centers in the region. It is being predicted that his trend will continue and will create more problems for the al-Khalifah government.

On conclusion of his visit to Britain and the United States last year the Bahraini Prime Minister, Shaykh al-Khalifah, participated in the American-Zionist conference at Sharm al-Shaykh in Cairo, and he was one of the highest level officials from a Persian Gulf country to participate in the aforesaid conference.

Most of the regional and international observers and analysts predict that in view of Bahrain's attempts to grapple with deep internal and economic problems, unrest will continue in Bahrain and that with the arrest of a few persons and by imploring for regional and international support, the fire cannot be extinguished. The pressure being exerted by the security forces in Bahrain will have the opposite effect, and the suppression of protesters will only exacerbate the situation further.

In an overall assessment, the reasons for the Bahraini Government's attempts at attributing the domestic unrest and uprisings to extraneous elements, and to our country in particular, can be summed up as follows:

A. The deepening and intensification of the public uprising.
B. The proliferation of the uprising into an all-encompassing one.
C. The increase in the general belief by neutral observers and other regional and international sources that Bahrain's problems are internal.
D. The solidarity among the Arabs stemming from fear of a new butcher coming to power in Tel Aviv, in the person of Binyamin Netanyahu, and the possibility of the halting of the imposed peace process in the Middle East.

In such circumstances, it appears that the best solution for the Bahrain echelons is not to deflect the problems to extraneous sources, but to respond to the legitimate demands of the Bahraini people, who want political participation in the administration of the country. If the al-Khalifah regime wishes to continue its existence, it has no choice but to accept these demands.

Iran: Russian Energy Minister Pledges 'Lasting' Cooperation

LD2706100596 Tehran IRNA in English
0914 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — Russian Minister of Energy Viktor Mikhaylov stressed that cooperation between Iran and Russia will continue and will be lasting, and Russia will abide by all its commitments stipulated in her agreement with Iran.

In an interview printed in the English daily 'IRAN NEWS' on Thursday, [27 June] he outlined various agreements reached between Iran and Russia during the rule of the deposed shah and also those concluded after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is an exemplary member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said stressing, "Iran has given full liberty to that agency to inspect and control its plants and has fully discharged her obligations in that regard."

The cooperation between the two nations is towards peaceful ends and the agreements have no confidential addendum. These agreements are ready for inspection by those who are interested, the Russian minister emphasized.

On questions of running the Bushehr nuclear plant by Iranian technicians after completion, he noted that the Iranian technicians will receive full training to run the plant. "Of course, for the first several years, Russian technicians may help Iran as advisers and observers." Mikhaylov stated that presently, the two atomic reactors at Bushehr can produce 1,000 megawatts of energy. After that, Russians will build two other reactors, each with 440 megawatt capacity. "Maybe in future we will work with each other in this field."

Iran: Tehran on New Distribution of Power in Afghanistan

LD2606134196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1002 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The wide range of interests, the plurality of power, and insufficiency of economic resources have turned Afghanistan into a country in which the conflicting political forces must, in order to survive, use their capabilities and resources within the framework of that country's limitations, and, if a group or person wishes to act outside these limitations, they will inevitably be eliminated from the political stage.

Golboddin Hekmatyar, who will arrive in Kabul today to take over the post of premiership, is one of the leaders who has understood the nature of political power in Afghanistan. He has also recognized that talking to and reaching a compromise with the government is the most advantageous method to adopt. The arrival of Hekmatyar in Kabul, which will, in practice, turn him into the second top power holder in Afghanistan, is the result of about eight months of constant negotiation between his representatives and envoys of the Afghan government, and the product of a wise process of political give and take, which will fulfil both his factional and national interests at the same time. This will occur because the relative balance of power between the guns in that country has created a situation in which competent negotiators are better able to achieve their aims than gun holders who are ignorant about the principles of negotiation.

In the opinion of political analysts, this same factor has meant that those leaders of Afghan groups, whose political expertise is greater than their military expertise, have had greater survival power in recent years and been able to consolidate the scope of their power. This is why it seems as if, despite the provocations of the Taleban group, the principle of the distribution and consolidation of power on the basis of the formula of an alliance between Rabbani and Hekmatyar has been put into effect, and the tensions of a few months ago have been removed from an important part of the Afghan political stage, especially because it seems as if, with the changes that have occurred in the structure of some other political forces, the inclination toward negotiation and the peaceful resolution of differences with the government have been strengthened among them, and there are many predictions about the possible joining of some [other] Afghan leaders in the peace pact between Rabbani and Hekmatyar in the near future. This same change in outlook and the change in the balance of the political composition of Afghanistan have made the task of forming a government coalition easier.

Iran: Tehran 'Ready To Help' Afghan Reconstruction

LD2506190096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to help the Afghan people to reconstruct their country. This point was made by Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy head of the foreign relations commission of Iran's Islamic Majles, during a meeting with Seyyed Mohammad Kheyrkhah, the Afghan ambassador in Tehran. He also condemned the rocket attacks on Kabul city. He added that there was no justification for rocket attacks on residential areas of Kabul. He said that the Afghan problem should be resolved through political understanding between all parties and minorities and through the establishment of an Islamic government. Larijani said: The civil war has damaged the reputation of the Afghan nation and the Islamic nation as a whole and Afghanistan should concentrate on reconstruction and calm. At the end of the meeting, Kheyrkhah explained the recent situation in Afghanistan and thanked Iran for its efforts to restore peace and calm in Afghanistan.

Iran: Tehran Radio Views Velayati Visit to Ukraine

LD2706092596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 26 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, went to Ukraine on Wednesday 26 June to take part in a joint trilateral meeting of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine have signed a memorandum of understanding on the field of enhancing commercial and economic cooperation last year. According to the memorandum, in return for receiving gas from Turkmenistan, Ukraine will give Iran necessary goods, such as rail for railroads and Iran will help build a road in Turkmenistan.

According to economic experts, such cooperation increases the chance of development of political and economic ties in the region and provides security and confidence due to the economic development in the regional countries. On the whole, the bilateral or multilateral cooperation is based on the aim of strengthening peace and stability in the world. Therefore, the multilateral regional cooperation has been promoted in most parts of the world. The existence of unions such as the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], ASEAN, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], or the European Union are proof to the fact that multilateral cooperation and, basically, multilateralism, based on common aims, guarantees the national security and interests of the member countries.

Iran has always played an active role within this framework, with the aim of rendering aid and cooperation for regional economic development. The joint cooperation of Iran, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan is the outcome of this effort and has prompted the three countries to take practical steps for close cooperation. The cooperation, as was resolving the problems of the parties, is very effective in clearing the hurdles on the way of regional economic development, because this cooperation can pave the way for a link between the countries membering the Commonwealth of Independent States, the ECO, and provide a more developed dimension in this aspect in regional cooperation.

Meanwhile Iranian, Turkmen, and Ukrainian foreign ministers, as well as covering the outcome of the action taken in discussing the regional issues, will take steps toward the implementation of the previous agreements, paving the way for future steps.

Iran: Council Says Research Groups Must Realize Khamene'i's Guidance

LD2606131296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to a measure approved at a meeting of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution held last night, under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, research groups must — in full coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education; the Ministry of Medical Health, Treatment and Education; the Free Islamic University; and the advisory committee of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution — examine and compile ways of realizing the guidance of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i regarding universities, and they must convey the results, for final decision making, to the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution. [passage omitted]

Iran: Nateq-Nuri on 'Conspiracy' of 'Global Arrogance'

LD2606132596 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here on Wednesday [26 June] paid tribute to the ranking officials who were martyred in a terrorist bomb blast at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party in Tehran in 1981.

In his address at a ceremony held in Majles on the eve of the anniversary of assassination of 72 top officials, Nateq-Nuri said the blood of the honourable martyrs guaranteed the Islamic revolution and enlightened the Iranian nation.

Referring to the conspiracy of the global arrogance to strike a blow at the Islamic revolution, he said the world arrogance, disappointed at its schemes to destroy the Islamic revolution, embarked on assassinating Iranian personalities and levelling baseless accusations against revolutionaries people.

He said what happened on June 27, 1981 (7th Tir, 1360) should be included in details in the curriculum of Iranian students in order to enlighten the generations to come on why those honourable personalities were martyred and why the enemy borne a grudge against them. [as received]

Iran: Hashemi-Rafsanjani Honors Martyrs of 1981 IRP Bombing

LD2606141696 Tehran IRNA in English 1317 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Wednesday [26 June] honoured the memory of 72 top statesmen who attained martyrdom in a terrorist bomb blast at the building of the Islamic Republic Party [IRP] in Tehran in 1981. In a meeting with the bereaved families of the martyrs on the eve of the martyrdom anniversary of the elite officials, President Rafsanjani said the pure bloods of the martyrs aroused the sentiments of people, thus insuring the destiny of the Islamic revolution.

He said the then Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti and each of the 72 martyrs were top officials of the revolution who served to reinforce the Islamic revolution either before or after their martydom. He said the event which took place on 7th of Tyr, 1360 (June, 27, 1981) is marks of the outstanding scenes of the Islamic revolution which foiled the anti-Islam atmosphere created by the world arrogance and its lackeys inside the country.

President Rafsanjani said the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i is an "living martyr" who has survived an assassination attempt. He stressed the need for protection of the values left behind by the 72 martyrs and said the 7th Tyr event should be clarified for the future generations to become familiar with the realities of the Islamic revolution.

Iran: Purchase of Radar, Navigation Equipment Approved by Council

LD2506190196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Economic Council convened today chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The meeting agreed to the purchase of laboratory equipment, navigation control units, and equipment for ground-based flight control radar stations at a cost of 7.3 billion rials.

Furthermore, the meeting agreed the allocation of sums from credits available, according to Article 48 of the second development plan, toward starting the Khorasan petro-chemical project in the current year, and also to meeting the costs involved in the Tabriz petro-chemical project.

The council also instructed the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to effect payment of an approved loan to help the Nasr electronics research and development center complete its ongoing projects.

The council also set the price of silkworm cocoons at 12,440 rials per kg. [Video shows meeting in progress]

Iran: Free University Official Rebuts Comments on 'Corruption'

NC2706050796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jun 96 p 2

[From the "FYI" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Answering comments by a Ministry of Culture and Higher Education official, who criticized inattentiveness by the Free University's officials toward Islamic values, a Free Islamic University official said: "To make the universities Islamic, we should start in the high schools, because according to studies by the Free University, corruption among youths starts in the high schools and spreads to the Free University. For example, this year the number of girl students wearing Islamic attire has decreased. Thus the Ministry of Education should seriously confront this situation." [passage omitted]

Iran: Paper Reports on Student Protests in Tehran

NC2706083796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Jun 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] A large number of students of the Teacher's Training University [TTU] gathered in front of the main offices of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and demanded the purging of the manifestations of corruption at universities, as well as the implementation of Islamic values in higher education centers.

Our correspondent reports that the 500 protesting students were divided into two separate groups — men and women — and carried placards reading: "We demand the implementation of the directives of the esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on making universities Islamic." They also chanted slogans such as "The Islamic University should be revived; liberal elements should be dismissed," "the cultural revolution should be revived—cultural liberals should be annihilated," "Islamic values should be revived in the universities — vestiges of anti-Islamic values should be eliminated from the universities"... They demanded explanations by the minister of culture and higher education on the increased presence of deviators in the universities and the reason why they are not confronted.

Our correspondent's report states that the protesting students who were surrounded by law-enforcement forces, gathered in front of the main building of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and voiced their concern over the activities of corrupt groups in the Free University and in state universities, as well as their concern over the questioning of Islamic values by corrupt individuals.

Also, a number of students who wanted to remain anonymous attended an interview with our correspondent and commented on the Free University officials' indifference toward the growth and spread of Western culture, and on corruption in some of the universities and said: The time has come to end the indifference being shown toward Islamic slogans and values, and any kind of indifference by the officials of this university toward values that have been gained with blood shed by thousands of martyrs will be confronted.

Our correspondent reports that officials of the ministry of culture and higher education refused to answer questions.

The report states that the protesting students also read a 20-point statement, regarding their demands, as follows:

In view of the directives of the esteemed leader of the revolution and the guardian of the cause of Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, on making the universities Islamic, we — the students of the TTU — have, in our past gatherings, demanded that the esteemed leader's decrees be implemented. But no steps have been taken by university officials. We have now gathered in front of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to demand the following:

1. The Islamization of universities, as a profound and revolutionary step, far from conservatism, is necessary;
2. A reform of the universities should start on the level of the ministry, because the universities fall under its jurisdiction;
3. The president, vice presidents, and officials of the universities should be committed, revolutionary, pious, and brave people who are devoted to the supreme jurisconsult. But this is unfortunately not always the case in universities;
4. Liberals, indifferent, and pro-Western elements cannot make the universities Islamic. They should be replaced by basiji, combatant, selfless, expert, and pious forces;
5. It is necessary to prevent the wasting of public funds as well as waste and ostentatious behavior on the management level;
6. Selections should be made and committees should be formed on the basis of correct Islamic methods;
7. Doing good and shunning evil should be seriously taken into consideration and implemented by the officials;
8. More attention should be paid to the oppressed and deprived strata—that is, the personnel and the students of the universities;

9. Utmost moral support should be extended by the university officials for the disabled and basijis, and for the children of the revolution;
10. The committed and pious professors, personnel, and students who believe in the principles and values of the Islamic revolution should be used in all the disciplinary, law-enforcement, selection, and other committees and delegations;
11. We warn those who are making the decisions on the privatization of universities to obey the esteemed leader;
12. Circulars and regulations that are contrary to Islamic and revolutionary values and are detrimental to the hezbollahi forces must be amended;
13. Islamic attire should be strictly observed so that the universities will not cultivate decadent values;
14. Forming cliques — from the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to the universities — should be stopped in all fields;
15. People who are trying to weaken the Islamic Revolution, the committed forces, and Islamic institutions must be decisively dealt with;
16. The committed clergymen who follow the supreme jurisconsult should receive as much support as possible;
17. It is very necessary to strengthen Islamic formations and to create unity among them in order to strengthen the sacred system of the Islamic Republic;
18. The just and unbiased use of university facilities — something that has not been correctly implemented until now — is extremely important;
19. Boosting the scientific and spiritual morale of the academicians and students, and especially of the disabled, is of great importance;
20. The esteemed leader's remarks on all issues should be implemented and never be forgotten or allowed to fade away in time.

These are among the short-term and immediate programs which, if ignored, will be implemented as they should be by the hezbollahi ummah and youths of this Islamic country and by the Islamic and revolutionary groups in the universities.

Iran: East Azerbaijan IRGC Commander Cited on 'Liberals'

NC2606062196 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Jun 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Tabriz — RESALAT correspondent — Thanks to the efforts of the students of the Free Islamic University and of the Teacher's Training College of Tabriz, a memorial night on the anniversary of the conquest of Khorramshahr was held, with a large number of basijis of the Sacred Defense present, at the Teacher's Training College premises in Tarbiz. During the ceremony, Chief Commander Ra'ufinezhad of the [Islamic Revolution] Guards Corps of East Azerbaijan referred to the bitter realities of the first stages of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war and said: In the initial stages of the war, under the command of Bani-Sadr, the Imam's line was the line of the oppressed and was constantly threatened by the liberals with their dangerous outlooks and their belief in a war without the people's presence, similar to the Parthian [dynasty's] method; and within this context they confronted the popular forces and the revolution guards and even hid the time and date of operations from us.

Commander Ra'ufinezhad stressed in continuation: Today too the liberals are stating their presence and want to implement their wretched plans. This is why they have started their creeping movements.

Referring to the political, cultural, and economic outlooks of the liberals, he said: In the political dimension, the liberals say: It is 18 years that we have been speaking against America. What have we gained? Or they ask: Why should we oppose the Arab-Israeli peace? They also ask: What do you care about oppression in Lebanon, Bosnia, or Palestine? In their cultural arguments they say: Let the people be free. Why do you bring up so many Islamic issues? And they go so far as to insult the people and say that many people are not religious, and therefore they should be allowed to do as they wish. As far as economic issues are concerned, they believe that everything should be free. They believe in free zones, even if these zones eliminate Islamic culture. They say that subsidies should be eliminated! At any rate, we do not want to say that today we are threatened by the liberals, because they are not so many in number, unless the hezbollahis and basijis have all died. But from now on the hezbollahis will not take anyone into consideration and they will confront any type of violation — be it in the universities or in the offices and be it in administrative or political form.

Iran: Rafsanjani's Daughter Says Iranian Women's Status 'Excellent'

LD2506213796 Tehran IRNA in English
2016 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Tehran Majles deputy, Mrs. Faezeh Hashemi described the status of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran as "excellent".

In an interview with reporters, Mrs. Faezeh who heads the Women's Games Coordination Council of Islamic Countries, said women in the Islamic Republic have made great strides in all sectors including the sports arena, and as an example took note of Iran's hosting of the first Islamic countries women's games a couple of years back.

The games which were held in an all-female atmosphere proved a success. Pakistan is to host the second Islamic countries women's games, while, as Mrs. Hashemi noted, Malaysia has requested to play host to the third such games.

She added that Kuwait is to host sixth meeting of coordination council of Islamic countries women's games this year.

Faezeh Hashemi, who is the daughter of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said that Islamic Iran has trained 3,000 women coaches and 3,000 women referees, a figure which is unprecedented compared to other Muslim or Arab countries.

She saw a bright future for women's sports, and said 30 Islamic countries have expressed their readiness for membership in the women's games coordination council.

Iran has proved to the world that hijab is no impediment to female athletes, and in fact gives them extra freedom to display their prowess in an all-female atmosphere.

Iran: Paper Reports Embezzlement in Saderat Bank

LD2506151096 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Jun p 2

[Unattributed report: "More Embezzlement in Saderat Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] News Desk — According to reports, a member of staff in branch No. 1330 of Saderat Bank, on Mirdamad Avenue, Tehran, are missing after embezzling 1.75 billion rials.

Confirming the report, an informed source said to our correspondent: Unfortunately, in recent years, due to weak management, the country's banks, including Saderat Bank, have suffered irreparable damage.

According to our correspondent, until late last night, attempts to interview the members of the board of directors and officials of Saderat Bank were fruitless.

The secretary of a Saderat Bank senior manager announced last night that the bank's public relations office will give further details on the case to the press this morning.

Iran: SALAM Reports on Trial of 'Subversive Network'

NC2506205496 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Jun 96 p 2

[Commentary by Naqi Aqalu: "Regarding the Discovery of a Subversive Network"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the past week or two, the news of certain criminal incidents, smuggling, and police activities have occupied a considerable part of the media and press reports. [passage omitted]

Last Tuesday and Wednesday [11 and 12 June] some newspapers reported directly, while others cited secondary sources, quoting the head of the Judicial Department of the Armed Forces as saying that 13 members of a massive mafia [preceding word in English transliterated into Persian] network with links to an extensive smuggling rings in Europe and Asia will soon be tried by a military tribunal.

The network was involved in the sale of classified national intelligence to foreigners, smuggling narcotics, and helping persons who were forbidden to leave the country to escape. A judge of the Tehran Islamic Revolutionary Antidrug Court was responsible for this network and its members included five law enforcement officers, two officials of the Information Ministry, three Islamic Revolution Guards Corps members, and three persons from the Islamic Revolutionary Court.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Yunesi, who made this announcement — it is not clear whether it was at a press and media conference or in an exclusive interview with one of the afternoon newspapers — referred to the arrests and trial of three senior officers who were spies, one of whom had been executed and two others who will be impeached in the near future. He added: The network, which is comprised of 13 people, has been under surveillance for two years so that its members could be properly identified and liquidated.

While expressing congratulations to those officials who unearthed and arrested members of the network and similar bands, we wish to mention a few points that are worth pondering: As is evident from the contents of the report, the arrested persons, or at least most of them, occupied important posts and responsibilities in the above organizations. Naturally, a number of other persons were working under them. Now, in view of the remarks of the head of the Armed Forces' Judicial Department, they were under surveillance for a period of two years. So what was the impact of their subversive activities in the course of these two years and how were its adverse effects neutralized during this period?

In the main body of the report it is stated that the 13 persons arrested were full members of this network. However, in view of the charges against them — including the smuggling of narcotics, permitting those forbidden to leave the country to escape, stockpiling arms and ammunition, accumulating foreign currency reserves, carrying out crimes, murder, sales of classified information to foreign countries which could only be done through extensive contacts with foreigners through vast organizations in many countries — this would obviously require far more people than those arrested.

The third point is: Were the arrested individuals accused of such charges prior to their employment in the military and law enforcement forces, or did they begin these actions after being employed? First of all, how did these persons manage to pass through the difficult and stringent filter [preceding word in English transliterated in Persian] of selection. If the second is true, how is it that these forces, who are in principle expected to be the most chaste and revolutionary of all military, political, and social forces, became involved in the aforementioned crimes and accusations?

Here there is a need for a deep, intensive, and multifaceted investigation so that the part played by the innate weakness of individuals, foreign enticements, economic deprivation, threats and arcane allurements, psychological crises, social and political conflicts etc., in the tainting of these individuals can be clarified.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Leghari, Bhutto Condole Saudi King on Dhahran Blast

BK2606135796 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In Saudi Arabia, at least 23 people were killed and more than 340 injured in a powerful blast at an Air Force base used by American forces. In Washington, the Pentagon says all the victims were American nationals. The incident occurred when a truck bomb exploded outside a U.S. Air Force housing area near the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran. [passage omitted]

The Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh has confirmed that no Pakistani died in the incident although a few suffered minor injuries. They are being attended to by the authorities concerned and the Pakistan mission.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have condoled the loss of precious lives in the Dhahran blast. In his message to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, President Leghari said we have learned with deep anguish and concern the news of the terrorist incident in Dhahran which led to loss of many precious lives and injuries to innocent people. Quote, I wish to extend to your majesty, and the brotherly government, and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as the affected families my deepest sympathies over the tragedy, unquote.

In her message, the prime minister said it is with a profound sense of indignation and agony that we learned of the unfortunate terrorist incident which took place in Dhahran causing numerous casualties. Pakistan condemns such dastardly acts of terrorism in the strongest possible terms. Quote, on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to your majesty, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the affected families my deepest condolences and grief, unquote.

Pakistan: Foreign Minister on Country's Afghan Policy

BK2506072896 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22, 23, 24 Jun 96

["Excerpts" of "exclusive interview" in three installments with Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali by THE NATION correspondent Nasim Zehra; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

[22 Jun, pp 1, 11]

Islamabad — Many years of deep involvement; unprecedented spill over into domestic territory; bomb blast; changed demography in Balochistan and Frontier; heightening of the lethal drug trade; playing the dangerous role of a front line state; billions of dollars worth of arms and aid flowing through to Pakistan; doing the western bidding at a deadly cost; turning over territory a sanctuary for freedom fighters. This is the world of Pakistan's Afghan policy. We took the bad with the good. It spans over decade we began our involvement in the early 70s with General Naseerullah Babar's famous blue print for an Afghan policy it was then aimed at teaching the troublesome President Dawood in Kabul, a lesson for stoking the Pakhtoonistan issue. The tables turned on Pakistan. The 1979 Soviet invasion prompted Pakistan's open ended engagement in Afghanistan. It still continuous. For Pakistan the cost of this perhaps unwise open ended engagement has been very high and many dimensional. Yet ironically we reap more criticism than praise for our role in Afghanistan. Specially over the last year the chorus of criticism from neighboring countries, from Afghan, from politically high profile Afghan men and from Pakistani commentators has grown.

While this criticism is aimed at Pakistan's cumulative policy of the last many years, in an exclusive interview with THE NATION Pakistan's present Minister of Foreign Affairs was asked to address some of questions arising from Islamabad's current Afghan policy. Following are excerpts from his interview:

On Rabbani's criticism of Islamabad's interference in the internal politics of Afghanistan:

It was Mr. Rabbani who came to Pakistan and asked us, ask Mojaddedi to resign when his term expired under the Peshawar Accord. We sent a delegation to Mojaddedi asking him to resign and he did. Then when Rabbani took over as President he found that his government was not broad enough and so he tried to bring in others. He found that some major leaders were kept out of the process. He realized that unless they are brought into the process there will not be a proper government and there will be no peace. So, on his insistence, Pakistan called the Islamabad meeting in which Rabbani had agreed to hand over the prime ministership to Hekmatyar. Now having done that re-distribution Rabbani refused to implement. He did not allow Hekmatyar to takeover. Now what had actually gone wrong? What had gone wrong was that while the political settlement was brought about by Pakistan, Rabbani was unable to have a mechanism for its enforcement. Some of the mechanisms involved included broadening of Rabbani's government through calling a 'shura' of all Afghans. Yet he called a 'shura' of only some Afghans. "Ahl-o-Aqd" shura. In that he only called his own favorites. He did not call the broad leadership of Afghanistan. The second mechanism was the formation of Commissions to cover the transition phase in security, in internal security and in other matters. These Commissions were formed and met in Quetta once or twice. But there was no mechanism to make them work and have their decisions enforced. That side was a total blank. So with the result that without suitable mechanisms a political coalition was put together that could not work. Fighting then started. Destruction of Kabul began. Then came June 1993, the time for him to step down because he was unable to broaden his government under the provisions of the Islamabad Accord. Instead, he made a reference to the Supreme Court without consultation with other parties to the Islamabad Accord and got himself extension till December. Then gradually through the UN system he started saying that I cannot hand over Afghanistan to anybody because there is no mechanism for handing over power. So through these means he kept protracting his government. But the core of problem rests with the Islamabad Accord which did not have the UN active backing. We did not have enforcement instruments and we did not have any provisions for withdrawal of the militias and warring groups out of Kabul. We then inherited the situation. When we came in and found that Pakistan was to an extent playing some sort of favorites game. And we did not Want to get involved in Afghanistan. We said as far as diplomacy relief operations and rehabilitation is concerned we are involved. We proceeded to maintain good relations with everybody. That is why we had good relations with General Ismail Khan, who was with Rabbani's party, with Taleban who had emerged by then, with Dostam, with Qadeer Khan, with Wahdat, with the independent leaders Yunes Khales, Nabi Mohammadi Gaylani, and also other leaders like Hekmatyar. So, in fact, we became neutral. Iran had the same position.

On the Taleban Factor:

I think, this has been an overplayed thing. Its mostly the Indian propaganda machine working against us to prove that Pakistan is a fundamentalist, militant state. It's Pakistan that is doing things in Afghanistan by supporting Hekmatyar or Taleban and others. So this image was built.

On Iran's Reaction to the Taleban:

Iranians saw the fall of Herat as a setback to their interests in Afghanistan because they feel, they have a special interest in Herat because of historical and cultural reasons and linguistic reasons. The loss of Herat they felt was a loss to their interests. So, then they shifted their position of working far more closely not just with the shia parties Hizb-e Wahdat but they began expanding their area of interests to all the Persian speaking people, because they felt that way they can counter the Taleban threat which they perceived as a threat to eastern Iran as well.

On the sudden rise of the Taleban as a political force: Because of the events in Qandahar. Events in Qandahar was such that the whole Qandahar region had been taken over by hundreds of commanders and they were extorting money, they were indulging in crime and at one point the whole thing got triggered off because of some girls who were raped. It was a very small group of people that decided that we have had enough. It was a spontaneous uprising but organized in the madrasas in Balochistan. They went and they took over the people of the area responded immediately to them. They welcomed them. So they received invitations from all over the Afghanistan. Of these 14 provinces they have taken over only 2 or 3 through fighting. The provinces invited them. One of the reasons why they were being invited was because they gave peace, they gave total peace in their areas and they disarmed the people, they removed the road blocks, they allowed free trade between the regions and even with Iran and Pakistan and there were a lot of positive things in them.

[23 Jun, pp 1, 11]

On the 'bad press' against the Taleban:

What is seen as negative is their doctrinaire position on strict adherence to their idea of what is the Sharia law, against women, against education, on punishment, on what they perceive are Islamic laws. So, these are the two factors that created a disturbance. One is the Iranian factor because they perceived a threat. The second is the worldwide specially the concern in the Middle East and in the west on Islamic militancy and so they were seen as a group of people who will be a threat to the stability of the whole region and this might become a nucleus of Islamic militancy all over the world. That is the context in which this whole thing must be seen. And it was very convenient for them to blame somebody so we became a scapegoat for something we have not done. And the US officials we have asked them, a number of times we have asked the Iranians please tell us where we have interfered. Has Mas'ud fighting them produced any evidence other then two youngsters they brought and said they have come from Pakistan.

On Iran's Perception of Pakistani Support to the Taleban:

Unfortunately a perception gained currency that Pakistan is behind the Taleban. And I went specially to Tehran to explain everything to them and I went as far as saying, please send a Commission from Iran and we will talk to the Taleban and we will ensure that they will permit this. This Commission should go all over Afghanistan specially the Taleban held areas and identify any evidence of money is coming from the Gulf and the way that money is earned through the Afghan transit trade into Pakistan through Afghanistan.

Russian Involvement in Afghanistan:

There was a political vacuum and Commander Mas'ud at some point approached the Russians and the Indians and because there was an opportunity of a vacuum and because we were pulling our chest-nuts out of the fire, the Indians were the convenient for their own reasons the Russians found an opportunity for a comeback and they may have certain reasons of Central Asian compulsions. So air bridges were built between Russia, India and Kabul. One of the other effects of the unrest has been the Tajik civil war and perhaps that prompted the Russian interest in Afghanistan in a very big way because they perceived Afghanistan as a source of civil war in Tajikistan. Now, when this happened it was convenient for Commander Mas'ud to blame Pakistan for everything. He proceeded to do so. By doing so he obviously got the attention of the Indians and may be of the Russians. Russians often indulged in mudslinging at us whatever happens in Russia they blame it on Pakistan. This has become an old knee-jerk habit of the Russians.

[23 Jun, pp 1, 11]

With ostensibly a diplomatic lull looming large over the Afghan political horizon, Pakistan's Foreign Minister claims Islamabad has been involved in hectic 'behind the scene' diplomatic efforts on the back for what he calls his consistent efforts at getting the international community and the regional countries interested in working for peace in Afghanistan. Arguing that it is in the economic interest of all regional countries that peace returns to Afghanistan the Minister details efforts made by Islamabad to especially collaborate with the Iranians as well as keep the Americans and the Russians involved in any effort at peace-making. Following are excerpts from the interview.

On the Iranian Assertion That Islamabad Provided Military Support to Taleban for Their Attack on Herat:

[Asif] No, not at all. They captured Shindand, south of Iran which had a fifteen miles long arms dump. Shindand was the second or the third biggest Soviet base in Afghanistan. A rag tagy, you know, force of Taleban who had defeated Islamil Khan in Dilara and it was a battle of a few hundred people from either side. After that when they took over Dilara which was a massive dump with 60 or 70 unserviceable airplanes. If we were helping them we should have got those planes operational once again. We didn't. If they had 80 more Migs, they would have been knocking on the doors of Kabul by now and nobody could have stopped them. Our not helping them to operationlise those planes is the biggest proof of our non- interference. If we wanted to help them that was the easiest way to their victory. After all India has helped Kabul. They have overhauled the engines of Ahmad Shah's planes and helicopters, improved their avionics and their radar systems. If we had wanted we had done the same for Taleban, but we didn't do so. And that is the biggest proof of our non-interference. So, that big ammunition dumped that they got that is worth millions of dollars. Why don't those blaming us for supplying military support to the Taleban talk of that dump. We had nothing to give to anybody in Afghanistan. We don't have Russian weapons. The second proof of our non- interference is that in Charasyab it was Hekmatyar who was defeated. He is supposed to have been a friend of Pakistan. And also if the Taleban were launched by us then why should we have launched them against the allies of Pakistan.

On Tehran's Distrust of Pakistan:

I would like to recall the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent visit in which he stressed that relations between Iran and Pakistan have never been better. This was also my message to the Iranian leaders. Over the last few months we have been interacting very closely with each other and to a considerable extent we have been able to allay their fears.

Now there is a convergence on how best the Afghan solution can be found. Now this is one aspect of our relations. Other aspects of our relations are moving in a very positive direction. So I don't think there is any great damage done to Pak-Iran relations. Our relations are very good Dr. Velayati and myself work very closely together and I am confident that we have been able to remove their fears of power involvement. And even if the Americans will tell you that we have been friendly with Taleban nobody will ever say, that we gave them weapon support. We gave them other support. As for fuel, explained to the Americans we didn't have to give it to them when they can get it for one fifth the price from Iran. Our relations with Iran are on track and they too would be happy to see a settlement in Afghanistan.

On Pakistan's Efforts at Getting Washington Involved in Working for an Afghan Settlement:

I found that the UN mission was going in circles and that Mr. Mahmud Mesteri has become more a UN observer than mediator. I have urged him time and again to please energize yourself. He also came up with a plan which was rejected by everybody. He didn't consult us, he didn't consult the Afghans and gave a list of people which was in fact President Rabbani's list. It was rejected immediately. We took a decision that while we have to support the UN mission, we put all our eggs in the UN basket, find it is not moving anywhere. So, we sat down at the highest level to analyze why UN is not making any headway. What we understood was that the UN mission did not have the political support of the large powers-that-be. Unless that support is forthcoming we don't think that the UN mission will succeed. So, it was decided at the highest level that Pakistan will now undertake to generate this support from outside and as a result of this decision I visited Washington and talked to the National Security Council member Mrs. Sandy Burger. Mr. Lee was not in town and Mr. Warren Christopher both were out. So, I talked to Strobe Talbot and Sandy Burger and other officials. We discussed very thoroughly in an effort to identify possible openings for us in Afghanistan. I urged the United States that unless you give your full political backing, the UN mission is not going to succeed. So the whole purpose of my visit was to engage the Untied States in a major effort in Afghanistan cumulatively. We know that this is not going to happen overnight. And also to engage the European Union. So, I had the opportunity to discuss the whole Afghan situation and the possible solutions with the French. They have an interest in Afghanistan. They assured me that my views will be carried to the European Union. We have also been talking with other European countries.

On Involving the Regional Countries in Hammering Out an Afghan Settlement:

So the way the picture emerges is that through intensive diplomacy between Iran and Pakistan and through intensive interaction both our countries are in agreement over the broad principles of a settlement. After this I took this to Uzbekistan, then to Turkmenistan because these are the regional countries which must also have concurrence. These are also in agreement. All the neighboring countries are in agreement. The countries which have an interest in the region, Saudi Arabia, they are in agreement and are prepared to consider anything that is workable. We have discussed this with Turks, they have an interest also and are in agreement. Every country's interest is now beginning to grow. This is our efforts. I was shocked to see in the newspapers words of suspicion as if our efforts on the Afghanistan front amount to a dangerous conspiracy that has been hatched. No there is nothing dangerous about it. Its a deliberate attempt by Pakistan to engage the Untied States of America, the European Union and hopefully the Russian Federation.

On Getting the Russians Involved:

With the change of the Foreign Minister we have been in contact and as a result of these contacts and as a result of third country linkages and influences the Russians have now agreed to talk. My argument with them was that instability in Afghanistan is not in your interest. Peace is in your interest and whatever is being said to you about Pakistan is incorrect. The Afghan situation will always have an influence on Central Asia, you cannot isolate the two. It will spill into Central Asia. It won't stop there but this instability can then go to Northern Russia. So it is in Russia's interest to stop instability here and bring peace in Afghanistan which will have very sanguine effect in Tajikistan, your soldiers will not die in Tajikistan. This has been my approach with the Russians. After the Foreign Secretary's visit Mr. Zardari will be going. I have asked him to take a trip to Russia, meet people. His mandate will be goodwill. Then subsequent to that if they invite me I will be happy to go or I will invite the Foreign Minister Mr. Primakov for talks. Mr. Primakov understands this region and it will be easier to talk with him. So, we have initiated this process.

The second development is that the Turkmen government has brought in Unocal Delta consortium for the pipeline. Unocal Delta had negotiations with Russian companies and the earlier company called Baydas has also had negotiations. We don't know which one will get it. But Russia's pipeline from Siberia to Turkmenistan, place called Charzaou. This pipeline has a capacity of half a million barrels a day and what Unocal Delta has proposed that a North-South pipeline be built from Charzaou to Gwadar. So this has been common alignment for the gas pipeline. Then the gas pipeline will turn East and then go straight down south. And we will ask the Russians that with the completion of this pipeline your exports will go up by 3 million dollars a year. If we take them at today's price. The west and the whole of the Consortium is not giving you that much what you can earn out of one pipeline. So why don't you work with us to bring peace in Afghanistan. This is our pitch with the Russians. Once peace comes the dividends will go right till the heart of the Europe and Russia, because trade for the whole Eurasian continent will open up, trade in the Middle East, in the far East, in South Asia and in this whole area we will get an economic boost. I think the Russians will see sense in this. Dialogue has already been opened. This gives me some room for optimism that if we can engage a large economic and political American and Russian interest in the region then the regional countries all stand to benefit and it is in their interest to have peace.

No Peace Possible Without International Involvement

Nothing can happen without an international effort. No peace will come. Lets come to how a settlement will take place. We don't want to give a peace plan. We don't want anybody to give a peace plan except the United Nations. All along we have been urging the United Nations and the Americans, and the Russians and everybody else that let us give some elements on which peace can be built.

On Elements Around Which Peace Can Be Built

Now what are those elements? When we say that there should be a broad-based government it's too wide a definition. We have to be more specific. What do you mean by a broad-based government? What do we do with the ground realities? So, I have presented these three elements that all the forces of the ground must have a representation in the interim mechanism or in the interim government. Taleban must be in it, Dostum must be in it, Haji Qadeer Khan must be in it, Rabbani must be in it, Wahdat should be in it, because Wahdat also controls a part of Afghanistan. So all those people who have physical territory they must be given representation in relation to the ground they control. Number two, in the political leaders of Afghanistan, the original 8 or 9 leaders, each one of them must be given political representation. Otherwise they will become the spoilers. They had a role to play in the Jehad, they must be brought into the political fold. The third element which will correspond to all this is that t he ethnic reality of Afghanistan must be represented in the mechanism council whatever percentage of Pakhtoons, Uzbeks, Khazaras, Tajiks etc. in the same proportion as their numbers, more or less the same. Now once you draw out the percentages, don't give lists, we have said lets not talk about lists. Lets talk about these three categories of Afghans. And we work out a fair distribution, one which nobody can either reject or deny. Pakhtoons are in a simple majority nobody can deny it, Tajiks are number two nobody can deny it. And similarly the ground reality cannot be denied. So all these factors, these three elements, the ground reality, the ethnic reality and the political reality, must be put in place.

[24 Jun, pp 1, 5]

Pakistan's Afghan policy continues to be one of the most hotly debated subjects among foreign policy makers and commentators alike. After seventeen years of Pakistan's involvement the bottomline of all criticism is "Pakistan's is a rudderless policy." Whether rudderless or not it is a policy over which there is no genuine cooperation among various, groups of foreign policy makers in Pakistan. The army which has been the primary policy making force over Afghanistan habitually blames the Foreign Office for all that goes wrong on the Afghan front. Today their criticism hinges on the notion that this government's "hands off" policy has been in fact a "handover" policy. "Others have walked in to take advantage after we have invested so much in Afghanistan", complain the uniformed men. They complain about the Foreign Office alienating Tehran "our strategic partners" over Afghanistan. However now there is consensus over holding of an Afghan peace conference in Pakistan. Still army leadership is skeptical about how doggedly the government is pursuing this option.

In his interview with THE NATION the Foreign Minister outlines the Benazir government's future moves on the Afghan front recounting the efforts he has made in working for a peace conference. Despite his optimism and satisfaction over the Foreign Office's efforts basic questions still remain. How does Islamabad become a venue with us not talking to the Rabbani government? Who will be the participants of this conference? On the peace plan there is more talk than action. The OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] has failed and no visible move has been made in either the regional states agreeing on some basic elements of a peace conference or a peace plan. There are apparent contradictions in Pakistan's position. For example what does an embargo do for a country littered with ammunition? who decides the 'real' numbers along ethnic lines? If Saudi Arabia is at a peace conference can Moscow be kept out?

Questions admittedly easier raised than solved yet relevant questions cannot be ignored. Yet unless pockets of reactive policy- making in Pakistan co-operate with each other to formulate a valid Afghan policy these questions cannot be addressed. Then essentially we will be left banking on the 'pipeline peace' which the American consortium UNOCAL is working on! With the gas and oil pipeline, when it eventually materializes, some interaction between the regional countries will increase and some Afghans will get going on the economic front but Pakistan's problems will not get automatically sorted out. On that we need to work at a conscious and studied level. Foremost is the need to be viewed as a credible peace-making facilitator by the regional states and by the majority of the Afghan groups. On that score some effort is being made.

Following are excerpts from the Foreign Minister's interview:

[Zehra] There can be conflicting views about ethnic and the military based presentation because necessarily the military ground reality may not work out at the same ratio as the ethnic reality?

[Ali] Correct, there will be some marginal gray areas and that's why we want that the first Afghan meeting should not be open and then they talk about anything they like. The UN must present a proposal based on these three major elements and then throw to the Afghans. Let them quarrel over it, let them argue over it and let them themselves find the solution to these problems of these gray areas and the marginal areas. For example who is going to control Pagdis, half of it is with Herat, and half of it is with Dostum. Who is going to control Bamyan, half is with Hezb-e Wahdat group, one-half is with another Hezb-e Wahdat group, one-half is with Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, one-half is with Dostum. So there is a gray area, so we leave those gray areas and identify them as gray areas. So, now we have four elements, as a basis for a peace plan: the ground reality, ethnic reality, political reality and the gray area reality. A plan should be built around these four elements and should be presented in an outline to the conference of the Afghans wherever they wanted. Iran wants it in Pakistan but we say better in Afghanistan. We think in Jalalabad is a better place because Qadeer Khan is neutral to all the leaders. Its their decision we don't want to force it.

[Zehra] Do you have a time frame for when something like this will actually take place?

[Ali] I think within the next two three months this can happen it will begin to gel soon because it is only in the last two three months that I have got in to active diplomacy along these lines. Now the other elements of the plan. Kabul has to be-demilitarized otherwise people who are controlling Kabul will not let the new government in. They choose their own president, their own prime minister and choose their own system.

But to demilitarize Kabul they may not have a neutral force so in the interim period until the new government can create that neutral force based on the same principles of the four elements, no those three elements. The UN can't give a neutral force. The UN has economic and financial problems then the OIC should. If the OIC cannot do it then the regional countries should do it. By regional countries I mean Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran hopefully Turkey and hopefully Saudi Arabia. So these countries.

[Zehra] What about Moscow?

[Ali] Moscow is not a regional country. You see every group will have some favorite country and the deployment of the observers for peace keeping, to create a buffer zones where fighting is taking place.

[Zehra] Are you including those countries as contributors to the neutral force which share borders with Afghanistan?

[Ali] Yes with borders.

[Zehra] Then what about Saudi Arabia?

[Ali] Because it has influence, direct influence.

[Zehra] Then Moscow too has direct influence?

[Ali] Moscow nobody will want but Saudi Arabia everybody will want.

[Zehra] Not even Kabul will want Moscow?

[Ali] Kabul may want but others will reject. We don't want any country which anyone can reject. And Rabbani may not want us, but the Taleban may not want the Iranians. So our troops can be in the Taleban areas and then Iranians troops can be in the Rabbani areas. Or there can be mixed units. These are the steps required for a settlement. Now these steps require further details. In the first phase there is a proposal which is under active consideration, the arms embargo proposal. This proposal has been mooted by Uzbekistan and Pakistan jointly. We have circulated it to the members of the Security Council. We have discussed it with various countries. They say that yes it is a good idea but how do we monitor the embargo. My answer to that is embargo has to be of two kinds. One is air embargo and the second is ground embargo. We want this to happen and this is another proof of our non-interference. That although Ahmed Shah Mas'ud will be the net beneficiary of this because he has the maximum stockpile. He had the air bridge of Bagram. Others did not have this air bridge and he has got the maximum number of arms so, an embargo is in his favor. Because the embargo will absolve us of any alleged responsibility of helping this or helping that group we are for an embargo. Now the question is how does an embargo come into force? One is to put observers and take over the air fields of Afghanistan, have six to ten observers at every airport. The cargo of all incoming flights is monitored which will ensure the closure of the air bridge to arms proliferation. Second is blocking the land routes. That is a more difficult one because there Pakistan has three or four entry points. Uzbekistan and similarly all countries have got entry points. They should all be closed to arms or war related materials. We are for this. This again is a proof of Pakistan's good intentions towards Afghanistan and the correctness and the veracity of our stand on non-interference.

[Zehra] You yourself pointed out that inside Afghanistan there are arms worth billions of dollars floating around, then what does this arms embargo achieve? It may only marginally affect the force level but will it alter anything substantially at the ground level?

[Ali] I think so because the arms inside Afghanistan are getting outdated. Some of the heavy equipment needs spare parts and as they all realize we cannot use all this stuff any more it will be a very big incentive towards peace. Now the third element in this is a cease-fire. For a cease-fire a much larger force is required. For that too it should either be a regional arrangement or an international arrangement. So broadly speaking these are the lines we are working on. I am satisfied that it is after quite a long time that things are moving in the correct direction.

[Zehra] You have discussed all this with the Iranians?

[Ali] They say we have no problem with this, we are happy with this. In fact they are the ones who have proposed a conference in Islamabad. No country can go it alone. Neither the Iranians can nor we can nor the Americans. It will have to be a multilateral effort.

[Zehra] Have the Iranians raised any question about Islamabad collaborating with the Americans over Afghanistan?

[Ali] No they haven't raised anything with us. They never ask us why the Americans come here. They say we understand you have good relations with them and we understand your compulsions. Because we have taken a very strong position with the Americans and said we will not be a party to any embargoes and sanctions you want to impose on Iran. If you recall I gave a statement to this effect in the National Assembly regarding the 10 million dollar American fund allocated for undermining the present Iranian government. That did a lot to restore their confidence in us because it is not easy for a Pakistani Minister to take a public posture against the Americans because of our compulsions. Our arms are stuck, the Brown Amendment was going through so we have to be very careful. But on the Iranian question we took a principled position.

[Zehra] When are you going to start talking to Rabbani. It is all very well to be angry as is the entire nation about the September attack on our embassy. But now letters of apologies or half apologies have come from Kabul. They are making, even if half baked commitments for reconstructing the embassy. Also we know how much can the Afghans really pay. Isn't it now in our interest to actively begin dialogue with Rabbani? We are staying away from.

[Ali] But you see when they go and burn our embassy, beat up our ambassador and staffers kill one of them its an insult to this country. We are God forbid not that helpless a country that we will go crawling to somebody who has done us so much of hurt.

[Zehra] Crawling is not the issue. Mujibur-Rehman led the breakup of our country, Bhutto realized there's a time when statesmanship is required, going beyond specifics beyond tit for tat is required.

[Ali] Statesmanship is fine but there is an interstate basis of relationship determined by the Vienna Conventions and unless requirements of those conventions are met we are not satisfied. They sent us a note verbal and the third day they denied it on the radio. They said we don't apologize and on the tenth day Ahmad Shah Mas'ud gave a most poisonous statement. We said you have to reassure us that it will not happen again.

[Zehra] Have they sent subsequent messages?

[Ali] They have. We have told them we need classifications and clearly stated commitments to be announced by the Kabul government from Kabul.

[Zehra] What do you want from them?

[Ali] First straight away an apology for what they have done and secondly a commitment on restitution and compensation. That must be given under the Geneva Convention because they will do this to us again. What guarantee is there? We need a guarantee that they will never do this thing again. There have been a series of acts of terrorism against us. First there was the hijacking of the school bus, then there was the ransacking of my mission in Kabul when I myself was in Kabul. There was an armed mob attack on me.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: 'Release' on Foreign Minister's India Visit

BK2406014196 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jun 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda has told Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar who met him in New Delhi on Thursday [20 June], that the Dravida Munneswara Kazagam (DMK), a constituent member of the government, had been a party to the Indian government's extension of the proscription of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for two more years.

Gowda also told Kadirgamar that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had endorsed the new Indian government's position of support for the independence and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka.

A Foreign Ministry release on Kadirgamar's two day visit to India, said Kadirgamar had separate meetings with Industries Minister Murasoli Maran (DMK) who showed interest in supplying educational items and books to school children of the North and the East and the Jaffna public library.

The following is the release:

"Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar visited India as the special envoy of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga from June 20-22.

"Mr. Kadirgamar was the first foreign minister to visit India since the assumption of office by the United Front Government. In a sense, this reciprocated a similar gesture of friendship and goodwill by India when a special envoy of the then prime minister of India visited Sri Lanka shortly after President Kumaratunga assumed office. The visits symbolised not only the strength of Indo-Sri Lanka relations, but also their continuity.

"Mr. Kadirgamar called on Prime Minister Deve Gowda and extended good wishes from President Kumaratunga. He handed over a letter to the prime minister in which the president extended an invitation to the prime minister to visit Sri Lanka at a mutually convenient time. The dates for such a visit are to be discussed between the two governments.

"The prime minister explained the policies to be pursued by the United Front Government in particular its desire to enhance relations between India and her neighbours, such as Sri Lanka.

"The foreign minister briefed the prime minister on developments in Sri Lanka including the situation in the North and East of the country. He explained that the civilian administration was being gradually re-established in the Jaffna peninsula following operations conducted by security forces to restore peace in the areas. Civilians who had been forced to flee by the LTTE were now returning in their thousands.

"The basic needs of the people were now being provided and schools, universities, hospitals, banks, government offices and businesses were returning to normal. A major two-stage construction plan had been set in motion at an estimated cost of around US$275 million. The Indian prime minister had expressed his support for the government's policies and assured India's co-operation in the reconstruction of Jaffna, especially in the provision of food supplies.

"The foreign minister stated that the military operation to break the stranglehold of the LTTE in Jaffna had been achieved without heavy civilian casualties following President Kumaratunga's direction to the forces that human rights of civilians be fully respected. The approach of the security services had ensured that there had been no refugee outflows and on the contrary people being detained against their wishes in the Vanni region by the LTTE were seeking to return home.

"The Indian prime minister wished the people of Sri Lanka well as they debated constitutional proposals intended to bring peace and security to all citizens of the country. For India's part the prime minister reiterated the statement made by the United Front government on appointment that India supported the independence and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and respected the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states, particularly of Sri Lanka. There was no question of supporting the LTTE which had tried to seek the help of the Indian government.

"The prime minister emphasised that this principle had been endorsed by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Karunanidhi. All constituent political parties in the United Front including the DMK had been party to the extension of the proscription of the LTTE, which had been one of the decisions of the New Indian Cabinet.

"The foreign minister had discussions with Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, external affairs minister. They reviewed Indo-Sri Lanka co- operation in various areas of activity.

"Trade and commercial ties were discussed and they noted that work in the Indo-Sri Lanka Sub-Commissions, respectively, on trade, investment, and finance; on science and technology; and on education and culture were proceeding satisfactorily. Dates for the convening in Colombo of the Joint Commission between the two countries were soon to be finalised. In addition to areas covered by the Sub-Commissions, the Joint Commission will also discuss other bilateral issues as it meets at the level of foreign ministers.

"Questions such as co-operation in the field of fisheries would be taken up including straying and intrusion into each other's territorial waters by the fishermen of the two countries. As a special gesture, Mr. Gujral had recommended the release of some 30 Lankan fishermen currently in Indian custody.

"A draft agreement on the promotion and protection of investment was under discussion and the two ministers were confident that it could be ready for signature at the Joint Commission meeting in Colombo which the external affairs minister would attend.

"The United Front Government's policies on industrialisation were explained to Mr. Kadirgamar by Mr. Murasoli Maran, Minister of Industries who is a senior member of the DMK. Among other matters discussed was the rehabilitation program in the north and the east and the foreign minister's request for Tamil Nadu. Assistance, particularly in the supply of educational items and books for schools and the re-established Jaffna library. The industries minister showed keen interest in this suggestion.

"Mr. Kadirgamar called on opposition leader Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee in parliament. Mr. Vajpayee recalled his visit to Sri Lanka and the active role the country is playing in the Non-Aligned Movement. He stated that Indo-Sri Lanka relations remained warm whatever the government in power and the commitment of the two countries to democratic traditions and respect for election verdicts was a major aspect which bound the two countries. He said the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] stood for non-interference in the internal affairs of states and will not condone the LTTE in any way.

"Mr. Kadirgamar also met Mr. P. Chidambaram, minister of finance. They discussed the need to expedite work on the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement and the possibility of expanding bilateral trade to the extent possible under the WTO. Increases in frequency of flights between India and Sri Lanka were explored, and Sri Lanka indicated her interest in securing additional stops for Airlanka in Bangalore and Hyderabad.

"The minister paid a courtesy call on Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and conveyed good wishes from the president.

"A well attended press conference was held at the Vigyan Bhawan [conference hall] on June 21."

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Reports Air Force Raids on Civilians

BK2406133196 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Five innocent civilians were killed when their bodies were torn apart by frenzied attacks carried out by two Sri Lankan Air Force planes yesterday. Three children were among the five killed in the bombing raids carried out by government terrorists on civilian population at Poonaithoduwai [place name as transliterated] locality in Chundikkulam. Twelve people were injured during the attacks. Two Kfir type jet planes, which entered Chundikkulam from the coastal areas at 1440 yesterday, resorted to indiscriminate bombing raids and rocket attacks. It is reported that because the bodies were mutilated, the exact number of people killed could not be known. Only five of those killed have been identified. It is feared that the number of casualties may still go up. The injured people have been admitted to hospitals in Pudukkudiyiruppu and neighboring areas. The site of the bombing lacks transport facility, so it was with great difficulty that the injured were taken to the hospital. It took about six hours to take the injured to Pudukkudiyiruppu hospital. Twelve of the wounded sustained serious injuries. Some of these people got their limbs severed.

Kfir type planes conducted bombing raids on Mullaitivu also. The loss incurred in yesterday's bombing could not be established.

Troops from Mullaitivu military camp resorted to missile attacks toward Oddusuddan the day before yesterday. It is reported that the attack did not cause any damage.

[Passage indistinct] a large number of troops are also seen in the localities. Military sources say that security measures were taken only after receiving reports by the intelligence department that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] planned to bring the east under their control.

The condition of the nine youths arrested by the Sri Lankan Special Task Force [STF] commandos in

Amparai District is still unclear. Reports suggest that the condition of these people who were arrested and taken away by the STF on 4 June is alarming. The efforts of their parents to learn of their fate have been in vain. When the parents and relatives of those arrested approached the officer in charge of the nearby STF camp, he denied ever arresting them.

The Sri Lankan Government has issued a ban on fishing in the (?fresh water) lakes in Amparai and Tirrukkovil localities. The people, who are greatly affected by the existing ban on fishing in the sea, have been further affected by this ban. About 2,900 families have lost their livelihood due to the unfair announcement of the government. At the same time, the Sri Lankan Government has also halted assistance to those people.

A Tamil daily originating from Colombo reports that the people in Vadamarachchi break into multipurpose cooperative societies and steal goods from there. After the Army occupation, there has been a shortage of food in Vadamarachchi. It is reported that because of this shortage, people have been breaking into cooperative stores and stealing essential food materials. The paper adds that men and women go there with knives and batons and publicly break open the shops. The report (?states) that the cooperative society officials, who could not prevent this act, have shifted the commodities to the houses of civilians.

The people who emigrated to Wanni following the military action are exposed to severe hardship by the latest announcements of the Sri Lankan Government. Owing to the lack of job opportunities as well as the worst kind of interference of the Chandrika Kumaratunga government, such as the suspension of disbursement of salaries and nondistribution of relief materials, the people are pushed to extremely miserable conditions. At the same time, the Chandrika Kumaratunga government has issued a stern directive to the government employees who emigrated to Wanni to return to Jaffna forthwith. In a letter, the health department workers, who had emigrated to Wanni, appealed to the Health Ministry to transfer them permanently to Wanni, because this place does not have an adequate number of health workers to serve the large number of people living there.

Vavunativu villager social worker T. Karthikesu was shot dead by unidentified persons. There are no details about the persons involved or the motive for the incident that took place on 20 June last.

Sri Lankan opposition leader Ranil Wickremasinghe stated in Parliament that the country is facing an unprecedented economic crisis. Alleging that all the sectors have become dormant, he cautioned that the situation in the country will worsen by the end of this year.

Thanks. The Tigers' aspirations: motherland of Tamil Eelam!

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Reports Landmine Attacks on Soldiers

BK2606151596 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sri Lankan side suffered heavy losses in the extensive attacks that were carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] on Sri Lankan troops in Batticaloa District and certain areas in Jaffna peninsula. A tractor, which was used by troops for transport, was completely damaged by a LTTE pressure mine in southern Kilali on 21 June at 1630. The Sri Lankan Defense Ministry announced that six of the soldiers traveling in the tractor were killed on the spot. Another soldier, who was thrown off due to the impact of the blast, was seriously injured.

Four soldiers were killed and two others seriously injured in another landmine attack in the Batticaloa District yesterday. The landmine attack hit a vehicle carrying supplies to the military from Urani camp.

Eleven policemen sustained serious injuries in yet another attack at Peytalai in the Battcaloa District. Two of the seriously injured are said to be of the rank of Sub Inspector. The landmine attack took place at 1130 on 21 June.

Sri Lanka: Tamil Tigers Vow To Step Up Attacks in East

BK2506120796 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 25 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who have been driven out of their northern citadel of Jaffna, have vowed to escalate attacks elsewhere, the latest rebel fortnightly said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said they have stepped up attacks in the island's eastern province following the loss of the Jaffna peninsula to government forces earlier last month.

The LTTE's official organ, the "Viduthalai Puligal" or the Liberation Tiger, said in its June 15-30 issue that government forces were unable to control both the northern and eastern regions at the same time.

The Tiger newspaper, a copy of which was received here Tuesday, [25 June] said that the deputy defence minister, General Anuruddha Ratwatte, and the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga were headed for a military disaster.

"The strategy of Gen. Ratwatte is an old story. That is, he expected that when the north (Jaffna) falls, the east will automatically fail, the north being the axle of the wheel of the struggle.

"The new story is he is going to lose the east also, when he is unable to swallow the north fully, even after using full strength," the Tigers said.

Government forces drove out Tiger guerrillas from Jaffna, the capital of a de facto state they ran for nearly five years, after a series of intense military operations begun in October last year.

Nearly half a million Tamil civilians, just over half the population in Jaffna, have returned home as life in the region slowly returned to normal with security forces gaining control there for the first time in nearly 10 years.

The LTTE said its leader in the eastern districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee have mounted pressure on security forces in the area and claimed that they were dominated large parts of the eastern province.

The Tigers also issued a thinly veiled threat against majority Sinhalese civilians living in the eastern regions, saying that if they leave the area out of fear for their safety that would be a setback for the government.

Hundreds of Sinhalese civilians have been massacred by suspected LTTE guerrillas in the eastern and northern regions as part of an "ethnic-cleansing" strategy to drive out the Sinhalese.

"More than the benefits to the government, from the military victory in the north, the setbacks the army is going to meet in the east will create serious politico-military crises to the Chandrika government," the Tiger paper said.

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